The Cochin Income-tax Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Cochin Income-tax Regnlation Amendment Bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. K. S. Manickam.— Mr. President Sir, at the outset I request you, both on my behalf and on behalf of my constituency, to convey to His Highness, the Maharaja, our humble and loyal feelings of gratitude, for providing in this year's budget an amount of Rs. 20,000/- towards the construction of a channel connecting Irinjalakkuda with the backwaters. This scheme, as I have had occasion to mention before, is one which paves the way for a new era of commercial prosperity to my country. And as such, it will be no intemperate adulation if I greet you, Sir, as the 'Maker of the Modern History of my Constituency'—a history full of prosperity and progress.

You have, in the course of the 'Opening Speech' mentioned that the increase in the expenditure of the State during the years 1100 to 1110, is not in proportion to the increase in the revenue during the same period. And realising, that the sources of revenue except in two cases, even where, we can more or less, accurately fix the maximum, are inelastic, you have drawn attention to the fact, that more vigilent and vigorous control over the finances is necessary. In this connection I suggest, that it might be desirable, to adopt a convention that the expenditure of each department should not exceed a certain proportion of the total revenues of the State, considering the importance of the Department and its needs. An adoption of such a convention will check haphazard and inharmonious growth of expenditure in the several departments of the State, and also making demands arbitrarily out of proportion to their necessary and legitimate needs and to the other total demands on the finances of the State. In making this suggestion, I am not quite oblivious of the fact that it is likely to result in an indirect checking of the progress of some of the departments, especially when some of the departments have not developed well. At the same time, it has to be mentioned that in a State where all the departments are uniformly well developed, this convention works admirably well as is the case in the State of Hyderabad. The adoption of such a convention would prevent a vide fluctuation between the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

estimated expenditure and the actuals. Were we to bring in this convention to our State, I believe that it might work successfully, because, all the various departments in our State, have uniformly developed to that stage, so that a proportionate allocation, of the revenues of the State, to each department, the proportion being fixed according to its activities and needs, will not result in an undue and disproportionate development of the one at the expense of the other.

Switching off for a while from the review of the budget to bestow some consideration on some of the outstanding administrative events of the year, the working of the Land Mortgage Bank flashes through my mind. The rate of interest that has now been fixed upon by the Bank on the loan taken is 6 % per annum. This rate was fixed upon at a time when, the condition of the money market was different from what it is to-day, and at a time, when the Government had to pay an interest of 5 % on the loan taken by them. Calculating this, as the rate of interest, which the Government desired to have for its money, and adding to it 1%, towards the expenses, required for the establishment of the Bank, the rate was fixed at 6%. Now, our Government has been successful in getting a loan at the rate of 3½ %. Fixing this, as the rate of interest that the Government can legitimately demand for its money, and adding on to it the 1%, towards the expenses, of establishment, I suggest that the rate of interest be fixed at 4½%. In scaling down, the rate of interest, I am sure no complications will arise, because the Bank has not yet issued any loans. This suggestion if accepted will go a long way in lessening the burden of the agriculturists and pave the way for an easier success of the Bank.

It is a relief to learn, that the much entangled problem of the 'Harbour' has been solved, and ere long Cochin will be declared as a 'Major Port'. The increased prominence, which Cochin is sure to assume, in the course of a few years, as one of the busiest of Indian Ports will not *per se*, favourably affect the economic position of the State. Unless productive enterprises, such as big industrial concerns are being floated in the country and thereby convert Cochin to a place of production, Cochin will merely function as a conduit tube for the passage of 'Goods'. The position of Cochin, will be more or less, analogous to that of the cashier at the counter of a flourishing bank. In spite of the fact that large amounts of money pass through his hands daily, he never becomes rich. Goods of extra ordinary value may go, they may come, but Cochin will remain for ever, what it is to-day. Proximity to places, where raw materials

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

grow abundantly, easy means of communications, availability of cheap and efficient labour, are some of the factors, which if present to an advantageous degree, will throw a place to prominence as a producing country. Mere exchange of money between the members of a community never increases the wealth of the community. It is only production that increases the wealth.

In the light of the above general principles, Sir, I congratulate the Government, in rendering financial aid to the Cochin Textiles. My congratulations is not without ample justification.

Whenever a scheme, of an industrial nature is being floated three courses are open for the floating of the same. (1) The Government may itself run the whole show, thus converting it as a department of its own, (2) the public may, without, any aid from the Government, start a limited Joint Stock Company, and manage the concern, (3) The third course is a combination of the former two, i. e., the public and the Government may float a concern, the public floating a limited company, to which financial aid is given by the Government.

Taking the first of the series into consideration, eminent American Captains of industries, do not favour the running of industrial concerns, by Governments exclusively. The very nature of the working of the Government, with its Official red-tapism, the peculiar orders of promotion, in its service, and the political relations that exist between it and the various Governments outside, stand in the way of the Government, in running successfully industrial concerns of a competitive nature. They brush aside this view by remarking "Let us have more of business in our Government and less of Government in our business". This observation has stood the test of time, and proved itself to be worthy of note. Besides, in the case of our Government, in view of its commitments already, and also because, money is needed for better and more useful purposes, within the State, I do not countenance the Government, in running industrial concerns, by themselves.

The second course open, is through the agency of limited joint stock companies. In this case, due consideration, has to be directed towards the temperament of the people, amidst whom the concern is established, their past experience in the line, and the amount of ready capital available. Judged by the past events, I have every reason to believe that the Cochin Public, have lost, what little faith, they had, in joint stock companies. A few companies which were floated in the course of the past

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

few years, have met with a sad fate. Public opinion prevalent upon the organisation of such concerns, can be gauged from the manner, in which, these concerns were described. They were described as the "Standing monuments of the follies of the then Diwans of Cochin". This true though humorous observation, will give us the necessary insight into the attitude of the public towards Joint Stock Companies. It is all the case of a burnt child dreading the fire.

The third and the last method, is Government aided industrial concerns. It is admitted on all hands, that such a happy combination of the two former methods of starting industrial concerns works splendidly well in cases where capital is shy. That Cochin Capital is likely to be shy, can be inferred from the results, that followed, the starting of a few joint stock companies, in the past in Cochin.

Now that Government aided enterprise is the best method for floating industrial concerns has been established, the next question that engages our attention is whether the aid rendered, has been proper and justifiable. This can be answered in the affirmative, by judging from the nature of the aid rendered. Preferential shares for the whole amount which fetches a cumulative interest at the rate of 6 per cent share value, being paid in instalments the payment of each instalment, depending upon the progress made by the concern, with these safeguards, I do not think that any financier worth the name, will characterise the aid as risky or dangerous.

Apart from this, the Government have to be congratulated upon the aiding of the establishment of such industrial concerns, because, they help to solve the unemployment problem, though temporarily. By this I am not to be understood to say that the responsibility of the Government ceases, with the establishment of such concerns. In this concern, Sir, I have to express my great regret in not finding a single reference to the problem of acute unemployment prevalent in the State, at a time when every modern Government thinks that it is incumbent on them to find out ways and means for the solution of the problem. More about this, when the particular topic comes up for discussion during the time when departmental grants are being discussed.

Before concluding, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government in bringing into existence a Staff Selection Board for the recruitment of officers whose salary is below Rs. 100. This

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

brings about a relief to the various heads of departments who can bestow now more of their attention on the working of their departments, saves the aspiring candidates a lot of trouble because they need not, in future, go from door to door and last but not least, puts a stop to all questions on the floor of this House, following in hot haste the wake of an appointment made by any head of the department.

Mr. P. C. Varckey.—Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to go into the elaborate details of the budget. I shall rather remain contented with a few general remarks on the outstanding features of the administration.

I am glad to find that in spite of the financial stringency the nation-building departments have not been neglected. In fact they have all been rendering useful work. Of course the expenditure under education and medicine are assuming alarming proportions, but this could not be helped.

Economic depression is still continuing in the State. The measures so far adopted to tide over its evil consequences are not adequate. Prices of paddy, cocoanut, arecanut and such other main produces of this country have still remain stagnant without showing sign of any improvement. The Land Mortgage Bank has not yet rendered itself useful to allay the distressed conditions of the agricultural population. Nor has any practical good come out of the marketing survey. We are now faced with the problem of finding markets elsewhere for our goods. Ceylon Government is trying to capture Indian markets for their cocoanuts and arecanuts. If we do not pay attention and persuade the Government of India to raise the tariff on these imports, we shall be soon launching ourselves in greater difficulties. Steps should also be immediately taken to popularise our articles in the Upper Indian markets. That seems to me to be the only effective solution of our present troubles.

References were made yesterday by some of the Hon'ble Members to the effect that the development of the Cochin Harbour would not be to the advantage of Cochin either financially or otherwise. I personally cannot subscribe to this view. I am of opinion that side by side with the development of the Harbour Cochin is bound to develop and the material prosperity of her people would be very much enhanced. Trade and commerce should naturally develop and new industrial concerns would also crop up. Economic development is therefore

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

inevitable. Even considering it as a source of revenue to the State, I am confident it will be a highly paying project to our State. In fact, it is the customs revenue that has enabled the Government to meet the increasing expenditure of administration during the last ten years. It is perhaps the only elastic source of revenue now left to us. Hence it is quite unfair to view it with a prejudiced eye and speak exaggeratingly of our commitments alone. Sir Shanmukham has achieved very great success for Cochin in this matter and the establishment of a major port here will no doubt be a feather to his cap. I convey to you, Sir, our thanks in this behalf. We also request you in this connection to take steps to obtain a good percentage of the appointments in the Harbour and Railway departments to us Cochinites. That will be then another means of solving our unemployment problem here. Some Hon'ble Members seem to be opposed to the idea of slump clearence in the Town of Ernakulam. In fact those who view such improvements in that fashion are doing a great harm to the State. Slump clearance undertaken in the capital Town should be only appreciated and thanked for. One should not legitimately grudge the Government spending a few thousands of rupees more in the improvement of the capital town. We find the Governments of Travancore and Mysore, for instance, have spent a good lot of money in improving their capital cities. The construction of a Guest House for housing distinguished visitors like the Viceroy, can no longer be delayed. Many would have heard of some little trouble that happened when we wanted to lodge our distinguished visitor in the Bolghatty Residency when Lord Wellingdon came here last time. So also the purchase of a decent House in Delhi for the stay of our Maharaja while H. H. visits the Imperial City cannot be said to be an unnecessary luxury. Hereafter such visits are likely to be frequent and it will be a disgrace for us to allow our Maharaja to reside in a rented building always depending on the kind hospitality of others. All the adverse criticisms levelled against these improvements are, therefore, uncalled for and one should not expect anyone to take serious notice of it.

Let me next examine the various steps taken to develop local industrial concerns. Here also I am inclined to agree with the Diwan that we ought not to look upon British Indian business-men as foreigners. Our duty is to co-operate with them whole-heartedly as it is to our advantage to have more and more industries started here. Just think of the Tata Mills and the number of our people employed by them. Or take for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

instance any other industrial or commercial concern in Mattancherry and see how many thousands of our people are benefitted by them. Through their activities our products will get better prices; we can learn much from them. There is no meaning therefore in boycotting British Indian business-men. It is suicidal. It is like cutting our own throats. One must have broader outlook in matters like this. Now turning to our own indegenous concerns, what is it that our Government have not done to encourage them? If the license of a certain Electric company in Trichur happened to be cancelled, or the repayment of loans by the Sitaram Mills was insisted on, I dare say there was sufficient justification for the steps taken in either case. Companies organised by discontented politicians and disappointed job-hunters, with only political antagonism for its capital and with vitipurations and threats held out to the authorities, cannot and will not thrive in any enlightened country. Such institutions are bound to die a natural death and no one need reasonably regret their loss. These cannot therefore be honestly cited as instances of Government antipathy towards the rise of indegenous institutions in this State. To every impartial thinker, it strikes, that Sir Shanmukham has already proved himself a real patron of all industrial and commercial concerns here worth the name.

Sir Shanmukham's attitude towards the press does not however appear acceptable to me. The press law has curtailed the liberty of the press. It has been brought on the statute Book, all on a sudden, under a Proclamation of His Highness. In my opinion, it ought to be repealed at once. There is no justification for this enactment to continue in force here any longer. Citizens of Cochin have always been enjoying the freedom of speech and the liberty of the press and such freedom ought not to be unduly curtailed. The present Press Law is a blot on the administration of the present Government. I am really surprised to find that a person like Sir Shanmukham, a gentleman who has always been fighting in British India for the liberty of the press should have been a party to this.

Another word about the staff selection board and I am done. For nearly a quarter of a century now, the people of Cochin have been waging a communal war between themselves for securing adequate share in the fishes and loaves of the Public Service of Cochin. This has been a bone of contention between the caste Hindus and the rest ever since the days of Sir Albian Banerjee. A solution of this vexed question was attempted by Mr. C. G. Herbert. He wanted to establish

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

here a public service commission. His Government even held out assurances to that effect from the floor of this Council on that occasion when I moved a resolution and carried it with the support of almost all the members. For some reason or other, he could not succeed in bringing it into effect and the communities were naturally disappointed. The communal strife only became keener as a result. Harmony between the communities has become almost impossible and politics in Cochin is now being concentrated wholly on the one question of "how to secure the appointments." People could not look ahead or think jointly about wider problems affecting the interests of the whole State. The State of affairs stood like this, Sir, when you stepped on the shores of Cochin. With your advent, things brightened up. Expectations ran high. All eyes were turned towards you with the hope that you would find out a fitting and practical solution to this naughty problem. Thank God, we have had not much to wait. Here we are to-day with the solution placed before us. Unlike the Public Service Rules of Travancore which are complicated, you have carefully thought out and originated a scheme which is glorious for its simplicity and highly practical in its application. We, the public of Cochin, fully appreciate what you have been so soon able to achieve in this direction. I do not mean to say that the inadequately represented communities have all been absolutely satisfied with the proportions now allotted to them; but as a first step, we do welcome it with all our heart. This will bring about better concord and unity between the various communities in the State and your name will be gratefully remembered by all for all times to come. You have sown the proper seed in the proper place and I feel confident that in the fulness of time, it will grow into a huge tree, bearing excellent fruits. Your name is sure to be written in letters of gold in the history of Cochin.

We also request you, Sir, to convey to our beloved and gracious Maharaja, our most respectful and loyal felicitations for granting us this boon. His Highness has always been kind and considerate towards His subjects and if proof of his solicitude in our welfare is wanted here it is seen in ample measure in sanctioning the constitution of a Staff Selection Board in the State.

In this connection, I would however sound a note of warning. In the first place, steps may be taken to bring the scheme into working order *at once*. Another matter which I wish to press in this connection is to request you to apply as far as possible, the same order of rotation while recruiting

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

persons for appointment ranks to the highers of service. What I mean to say is that the principle of communal representation should not be lost sight of while selecting candidates for higher appointments. In the name of efficiency, the door of higher service used to be kept closed in the past even against deserving candidates from the unrepresented communities I repeat this should not be allowed to occur in future.

In the matter of constitutional reforms, I am constrained to observe that our Government is moving rather slow. In his speech yesterday, the Diwan was heard saying that the people of Cochin are being taken into greater and greater confidence by the Government in matters relating to administration. As an example, he cited the working of the advisory committees. It is true that as a first step towards constitutional reforms, we welcomed it last year, but we are thoroughly disappointed to find that the second and more important instalment is being unnessarily delayed. From a Government presided over by an all-round politician like you, Sir, with liberal views, we have every reason to anticipate very much more. I would therefore request the Government to quicken their space a little and do something really substantial at once, at least before we meet next year to discuss the budget.

Thanking you, may I resume my seat.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എ. ശങ്കുണ്ണി.— സർ, "രാജാ പ്രത്യക്ഷ ദൈവതം" എന്ന മഹൽസിദ്ധാന്തത്തെ സർവ്വാത്മനാ ആദരിച്ചും അനുഷ്ഠിച്ചും പോരുന്ന ബഹുശതം നിർദ്ദോഷികളായ വാലൻ, അരയൻ മുതലായ സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ കരുണാനിധിയും സാധുതല്പരനുമായ കൊച്ചീ മഹാരാജാവിനോടുള്ള എന്റെ അകൈതവമായ ഭക്തിബഹുമാനാദികളെ ഇവിടെ ആദ്യമായി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞാനമോ ധനകാര്യവിദഗ്ദ്ധതയോ ഇല്ലാത്ത എനിക്ക് ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ ആയവ്യയങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണ സമ്പ്രദായത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാരമായ സങ്കോചമുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും ഈ സഭസ്സിലെ ബഹുമാന്യന്മാരായ മിക്ക അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരും എന്തോ സംഗതിവശാൽ മറന്നുപോയ ഒരു സംഗതിയെ ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തുവാനാണ് ഞാൻ എന്റെ എളിയതായ ഉദ്യമംകൊണ്ടു നിറവേറുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. സർ, പരിശുദ്ധമായ ഒരു യാഗം കണ്ടു മടങ്ങിപ്പോകുന്നതായ ഒരു ശ്രുനകന്റെ അനുഭവമാണ് ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊള്ളുന്ന എനിക്ക് ഓർമ്മയിൽ വരുന്നത്. എല്ലാ രാഷ്ട്രങ്ങളുടേയും അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ സുസ്ഥിരമായി താങ്ങിപ്പോരുന്നത് Bold Peasantry

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ആണെന്നാണല്ലോ അഭിജ്ഞന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ പെസൻറി തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയുടെ അടിത്തട്ടിൽപെട്ട്, നിത്യ ദാരിദ്ര്യവുമായി അനവരതം പോരാടി വലയുന്ന ദയനീയ രോദനമാണ് എല്ലാ മൂലകളിൽനിന്നും പ്രതിധ്വനിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ രോദനം ഒരു കള്ളപ്പണമായി സങ്കല്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇതിനോടുകൂടി വെള്ളപ്പണവും കള്ളപ്പണമായി പോകുന്നത് കൂടുതൽ കഷ്ടതരമാണ് എന്ന് ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സംഗതിയാണ് എനിക്ക് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനുള്ളത്. സർ, ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ വെള്ളപ്പണമായി സങ്കല്പിക്കുന്നത് മത്സ്യവ്യവസായത്തെയാണ്. കൊച്ചീ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ പ്രകൃതിതന്നെ ഈ വ്യവസായത്തിൻെറ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് പ്രത്യേകമായി അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണെന്നു തോന്നുമാറ് മത്സ്യബന്ധനത്തിന് ഉപയുക്തങ്ങളായ ധാരാളം ജലാശയങ്ങളുണ്ട്. കനകം വിളയുന്ന എന്ന് വ്യവസായലോകം വാഴ്ത്തി സ്തുതിച്ചുപോരുന്നതായ ഈ വ്യവസായം ഗ്രേറ്റ്ബ്രിട്ടൻ, യുനൈറ്റഡ് സ്റ്റേറ്റ്സ്, ജർമ്മനി, ജപ്പാൻ മുതലായ പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവമ്മെൻറുകളുടെ പ്രത്യേക പരിരക്ഷയിലും പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിലും അസൂയാജനകമായ ഒരു അവസ്ഥയിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്നത് സുപ്രസിദ്ധമായ ഒരു വാസ്തവമാണ്. സർ, നമ്മുടെ കൊച്ചീ ഒരു മേജർ പോർട്ട് ആയി പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ അധികം താമസമില്ലല്ലോ. എന്നാൽ അതിൻെറ പ്രശസ്തിക്ക് അനുയോജ്യമായ ഒരു അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഇവിടത്തെ ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇല്ല എന്നു വരുന്നത് ഈ ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ പ്രശസ്തിക്ക് അപമാനകരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണെന്നാണ് എൻെറ വിനീതമായ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇവിടത്തെ ഇന്നത്തെ ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഒരു ശോചനീയാവസ്ഥയിലാണ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതിൻെറ പുറത്തുമാത്രമല്ല അകത്തും സ്ഥിതി ശോചനീയം തന്നെയാണ്. സ്കൂ മുതൽ വ്യാ വരെ ഗ്രേഡിലുള്ള ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ കീഴിൽ കെട്ടിയിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പശുവിനെപ്പോലെയാണ് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഇന്ന് ചുറ്റിക്കിടന്നു തിരിയുന്നത്. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ സജാതീയനാണല്ലോ എന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കയായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഇതു തെറ്റായ ഒരു അഭിപ്രായമാണെന്നാണ് എൻെറ എളിയ പക്ഷം. ഏതായാലും ഈ ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പണ്ടേതന്നെ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നു വസ്തുത ഏകദേശം ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് ഗവമ്മെൻറു പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രസ്താവനയിൽ ഇപ്രകാരം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു കാണുന്നു. 'If next to agriculture there is any other branch of Industry in the Cochin State which is capable of considerable development, it is pisciculture. This industry is still in a primitive condition and susceptible of considerable improvement. The State has a Sea Coast of 50 miles. Parallel to this Coast line there

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is a continuous system of backwaters, out of which not only could home consumers satisfy their demand but a large export trade could also be developed by preserving fish for consumption in distant countries.'

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെൻറിന് ഈ അഭിപ്രായം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ മത്സ്യബന്ധനംകൊണ്ട് നിത്യവൃത്തി കഴിച്ചുപോന്ന Inland fishers ആയ വാലന്മാക്ക് ഇന്നത്തെ അവശതകളുടെ പത്തിലൊന്ന് അന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഇന്നത്തെ ര് ഉറുപ്പിക, മൂന്നുറുപ്പിക, ഒന്നരുറുപ്പിക, മുക്കാൽ ഉറുപ്പിക ഊന്നി നികുതിക്ക പകരം അന്ന് എട്ടപുത്തൻ, ആറപുത്തൻ, നാല പുത്തൻ, രണ്ട പുത്തൻ മാത്രമേ നികുതിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. അന്ന് field fishery തുലോം തുച്ഛമായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് അതു ഭയങ്കരമായ നിലയിൽ വാലന്മാക്ക് ട്ടൊകെ വയററത്തടിയായി പരിണമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അഴിമുഖത്തിൽനിന്നുള്ള ഒഴുക്ക് തടസ്ഥം ക്കടാതെ ഒഴുകിയിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് അതിന് സാരമായ പ്രതിബന്ധം ഹാർബർ നിരത്തുകൾ മുഖാന്തിരം സംഭവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗതാഗതത്തിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന മത്സ്യങ്ങളെ ഭയപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന മോട്ടാർ ബോട്ട സഞ്ചീസുകൾ അന്ന തീരെ ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നു. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ ബോട്ട സഞ്ചീസ് അന്നത്തെ വാലന്മാരുടെ മൊണോപ്പളിയായിരുന്നു. ആയതും അവരുടെ ഉപജീവന മാർഗ്ഗത്തെ സാരമായി സഹായിച്ചുപോന്നു. ഇതിനായി അവരെ സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നതന്നെ സർക്കാർ ആവശ്യം പ്രമാണിച്ച് കായലോരങ്ങളിൽ കൂട്ടംകൂട്ടമായി താമസിപ്പിച്ചുംപോന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയും ഗതിയും വളരെ ഭയനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. സർ, ഞാൻ ഹൃദയവേദനയോടുകൂടി പറയുന്നു, ഹാർബർ പരിസരങ്ങളിലെ കായലോരങ്ങളിൽ കിടക്കുന്നവരായ വാലന്മാരുടെ കിടപ്പിടത്തിന് ഇളക്കം തട്ടുകയാൽ കിടക്കപ്പൊറുതിയില്ലാതായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിന്റെ ലക്ഷണങ്ങളും വ്യസനകരമാംവണ്ണം കണ്ടുതുടങ്ങിയും ഇരിക്കുകയാൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പലേ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് പലേ ഹർജികളും മൂലം കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതുമാകുന്നു. സൂചി കുത്തുവാൻപോലും കിടപ്പിടത്തിന സ്ഥലമില്ലാത്തവരാണ് ഇവരിൽ നൂറിൽ തൊണ്ണൂറൊൻപതു പേരും. ഉൾപ്രദേശത്തു താമസിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അവരുടെ തൊഴിൽ ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം ഇല്ലാതായിതീരുന്നതും തദ്വാരാ ഈ വ്യവസായത്തിന് സാരമായ കോട്ടം സംഭവിക്കുന്നതും ആയിരിക്കും. ഈ ദുരിതാവസ്ഥയിൽനിന്നും അവരെ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് രക്ഷിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു സമുദായം തീരെ ജീർണ്ണിച്ചുപോകുന്നതാണ്. വേറൊരു പ്രധാന സംഗതി എനിക്ക ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തുവാനുണ്ട്. ഇവിടത്തെ fishing stakes—നെൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് മുമ്പായിരിക്കുന്ന നികുതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ഫ്രൻറെ-ൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന് ഫിഷിംഗ് സ്റ്റേക്കുസിൽനിന്ന ഫ്രാന്ദ്ര് ദ്രു ഫ്രാ ണ. ഫ്ര സ. വരുമാനമുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായിക്കാണുന്നു. അന്ന് എട്ട പുത്തൻ, ആറ പുത്തൻ, നാല പുത്തൻ, രണ്ടു പുത്തൻ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പ്രകാരമായിരുന്ന നികുതി നിരക്ക്. ആകെ ഫുൾർ ഫിഷിംഗ് സ്റ്റേക്കു സ് മാത്രമാണ് അന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഇന്ന് മൂവായിരത്തി ൽ ചിലപാനം സ്റ്റേക്കുസ് ഉണ്ട്. നാലുറുപ്പിക, രണ്ടുറുപ്പിക, ഒന്നര ഉറു പ്പിക, മുക്കാൽ ഉറുപ്പിക വീതം ടാക്സ്റ്റേഷൻ റേറും ഉണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ ഗവമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് ഫ്രഥാ-ൽ ചിലപാനം ഉറുപ്പിക മാത്രമാണ് മുത ലെടുപ്പു കാണുന്നത്. ബാക്കി തുകകം ഏതാനും ചില ലയിറു കൺ ടാക്ടർമാക്ക കൊടുത്തുപോകയാണ്. സർ, ഇത് പട്ടിപെറു കൂ ക്കുന കൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായമാണ്. ആകപ്പാടെ ആയിരത്തിൽ ചിലപാ നം ഉറുപ്പിക ഗവമ്മെൻറ് കണ്ടില്ലെന്ന വച്ചാൽതന്നെ എന്തൊരു ന ഷ്ടമാണ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന വരുവാൻ പോകുന്നത്? ഒരു വെറും തുച്ഛമാ യ ഈ തുക ഗവമ്മെൻറ് വേണ്ട എന്ന വച്ചാൽ സാധുക്കളായ വാല ന്മാക്ക് അത് ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു പുണ്യമായിരിക്കും. ആയതുകൊണ്ട് ഇ ക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു ആനുകൂല്യംചെയ്തു കൊട ക്കുവാൻ എനിക്ക് അപേക്ഷയുള്ളതുമാണ്.

ഹാർബർ അതുത്തിയിൽ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുവാൻ വയ്യ എന്നും അ പ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നവരെ ഫിഷറിക്കാർ പിടിച്ചു് നിയമപ്രകാരം ബുദ്ധി മുട്ടിച്ചുവരുന്നുവെന്നും ഒരു പരാതി ഏതാനും ചില മത്സ്യബന്ധികളിൽ നിന്നും എനിക്ക് അറിയുവാൻ സംഗതിയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. സർ, ഇതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമായ ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. കരയിൽകിടന്ന പട്ടിണി അനുഭവിക്കുമ്പോ ൾ ആളെ പിടിച്ചുതിന്നുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ എത്ര ശ്രേഷ്ഠതരമാണ് വെള്ള ത്തിലെ മത്സ്യത്തെ പിടിച്ചുതിന്നുന്നത്. ഭക്ഷണ സാധനത്തെ വർദ്ധി പ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു മഹൽകൃത്യവും ആ സാധുക്കൾ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള നിരുപദ്രവികളെ നിയമത്തിൻെറ കഠോര ഖഡ്ഗിക്ക് ഇനിമേലിലെങ്കിലും ഇരയാക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്ക് അപേക്ഷയുള്ള തുമാണ്. അതല്ല, അവർ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്ന സമയങ്ങളിൽ ഹാർബർ മേധാവികൾക്ക് വല്ല അസൌകര്യങ്ങളും നേരിടുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ മഹാ ശയന്മാക്ക് ഈ അഗതികൾക്ക ഉപജീവനമാർഗ്ഗത്തിനു വല്ല ജോലി യും കല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കുമല്ലോ. ആയതുകൊ ണ്ട് ഒന്നുകിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് ഇവരെ നിയമത്തിൻെറ പേരിൽ മർദ്ദനം നിറുത്തിവക്കണം. അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ഹാർബർ വകുപ്പുകാരെ അവരുടെ ചുമതല ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കണം എന്നുള്ളതാണ് എൻെറ വിനീതമായ അഭിപ്രായം. അട്ടയുടെ കണ്ണിൽപോലും വഴുത കോക്കുവാൻ പ്രാപ്തനാ യ ഒരു പ്രതിഭാശാലി — അതേ, ഒരു കമ്മകുശലനും ധർമ്മനിരതനും — ആയ ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയവർകളുടെ ഭരണകാലത്തു് ജലാശയ ങ്ങളിൽ വിഹരിക്കുന്ന കാമധേനുവിനെ കറക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കി ൽ ഇനി എന്നാണ് ആയതു സാധിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നോർത്തു് ഞാൻ വ ല്ലാതെ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. സർ, ജലാശയത്തിലെ കാമധേനുവായി ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നതു മത്സ്യവ്യവസായത്തെയാണ്, അറ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ബിക്കടലിന്ന് ഒരു രാജ്ഞിയെ പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള സകല സന്നാഹങ്ങളും സംക്ഷിപ്തമായി ധൃതഗതിയിൽചെയ്ത ഒരു കമ്മഡീരന്റെ ഒരു അല്പദൃഷ്ടി ഈ ജലകാമധേനുവിന്റെ നേർക്ക് പതിക്കുന്നതായാൽ, സർ, ഞാൻ ധൈര്യമായി ശപഥംചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു, ഈ കാമധേനുവിന്റെ പാൽകൊണ്ട് ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ മത്സ്യബന്ധികളായ വാലന്മാരേയും അരയന്മാരേയും മാത്രമല്ല മറനേകം പട്ടിണിപ്പരിഷകളേയും നിത്യദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽനിന്ന് വിമുക്തരാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും.

ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പച്ചാളം വാല കോളനിക്കടുത്ത് റഫ്റിഗേറ്റർ സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ആലോചന ധൃതഗതിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. കൊച്ചിൻ ഏലക്കടിക്കു വക്കു പ്രശസ്തമായ നിലയിലെത്തുമ്പോൾ ഫ്രൂഡ് ലയിറ്റു ബാറ്ററി മുതലായ ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുവാൻ അടുത്ത ഭാവിയിൽ സാധിക്കുമെന്നോർത്തു് ഞങ്ങൾ കൂടുതാത്പരരായിരിക്കുയാണു്. ഞങ്ങളെ ഭഗ്നാശയരാക്കാതിരിക്കാനും സജാതീയനായാലും വിജാതീയനായാലും നരിയുടെ കയ്യിൽ കൂടൽ, മാംസം മുതലായവ കഴുകുവാൻ ഏല്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുവാനും ആത്മാത്ഥമായ ഒരു അപേക്ഷയും എനിക്കുള്ളതാണു്.

സർ, എനിക്കു് ഇനി രണ്ടു വാക്കു സംസാരിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് അടുത്ത നടപ്പിൽ വരുവാൻ പോകുന്ന സ്റ്റാഫു സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗ നിയമനത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ഉദ്യോഗ വിതരണ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കൊക്കെ സാരമായ മാനഹാനിയും ഇച്ഛാഭംഗവും നേരിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതെ എനിക്കു യാതൊരു ഗത്യന്തരവുമില്ല. ഞങ്ങളെ ഒക്കെ ബാക്കവേഡ് ക്ലാസ്സു് ആണു് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് തീറ്റിപ്പോറ്റി. എന്നാൽ പറക്കാറായപ്പോൾ കടവാതിലിന്റെ അനുഭവമാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഏതായാലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ അവശതകളെപ്പറ്റി ഈ സഭ്യസ്സിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയല്ലാതെ വേറെ യാതൊരു കഴിവും ഇല്ലാത്തതാണല്ലോ. കൊച്ചീ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ മൂകസഹസ്രങ്ങളെ മിക്കവാറും അൻപതു സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കൂട്ടി ഒറ്റക്കെട്ടായി കെട്ടിപ്പടുത്ത ശതമാനം ലേബിളും പതിച്ചുവച്ചതു് അതിസാഹസമായ ഒരു കടങ്കഥ ആയിപ്പോയി എന്നാണു് എനിക്കിവിടെ വ്യസനസമേതം പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്. സർ, ഈ അൻപതു സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ ഏതാനും ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ ഒഴിച്ചു് ബാക്കിയുള്ളവ ഒക്കെയും മിണ്ടാപ്രാണികൾ മാത്രമാണു്. ഇവരുടെ നിത്യജീവിതത്തിൽ അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്ന അവശതകൾ ധർമ്മസങ്കടങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടവയാണു്. ആയതു കൊണ്ടു് ഇവരുടെ കാര്യം ഒന്നുകൂടി ആവർത്തിച്ചു് ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു് എന്റെ പക്ഷം. നമ്മുടെ ഖജനാവിൽനിന്നും കൊടുക്കുന്ന ധനംകൊണ്ടു് മിക്കവാറും ചിലവു കഴിച്ചുവരുന്ന ചില സഹായ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ധന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറുകൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ട്. അവയെക്കൂടി ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിൻെറ പരിധിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതു് അതിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ രക്ഷക്കും ഉദ്യോഗവിതരണം ന്യായമാക്കുവാൻ ആവശ്യവുമാണ്. അണ്ടെയിൻറ ടീച്ചേഴ്സിന് ഒരു ഉറപ്പികയിൽ ഫസ്റ്റ് അണവ പൈയും ടെയിൻറ ടീച്ചേഴ്സിന് ഉറപ്പികയിൽ ഫസ്റ്റ അണയും കിട്ടുന്നു. ടെയിൻറ ടീച്ചേഴ്സിനു് പ്രാവിഡൻറ ഫണ്ടും സ്റ്റേറിൽനിന്നും നൽകിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. സ്റ്റാഫ് ലിസ്റ്റ് എല്ലായ്പോഴും ഡയറക്ടർ അപ്രൂവ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും ലീവു് അലവൻസ്, ലീവു്, സസ്പെൻഷൻ, ഡിസ്മിസൽ മുതലായവ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ അധീനതയിൽ പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഇതു് പബ്ളിക് സർവ്വീസിൽ മിക്കവാറും ഉൾപ്പെട്ടന്നതിനും പുറമെ സെലക്ഷൻ വളരെ എളുപ്പമുള്ളതാണെന്നുംകൂടിയാണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം.

റെസ്പോൺസിബിൾ ഗവൺമെൻറിനു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള മുറവിളി ഈ ആലയത്തിൽനിന്നും പ്രതിധ്വനി കൊള്ളുവാൻ തുടങ്ങീട്ടു് കുറെ നാളായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവൺമെൻറ ആ ലക്ഷ്യത്തെ ഉന്നംവച്ചു് പടിപടിയായി പുരോഗമനത്തെ പ്രാപിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടല്ലൊ. നേഷൻ ബിൽഡിംഗ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറ് സ് ഒരു മിനിസ്റ്ററിൻെറ കീഴിൽ ആയിത്തീരണമെന്നുള്ള ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വയറിലെ മെമ്പറുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാനും യോജിക്കുന്നു. ആകയാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറ് സ് തമ്മിലുള്ള (വേഴ്ച) അമാൽഗമേഷൻ എൻകറേജ് ചെയ്യണം എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയും ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

സർ, മാറിപ്പോയ പോലീസു കമ്മിഷണർ രാജശ്രീ മിസ്റ്റർ നീലകണ്ഠമേനോനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് എനിക്കു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ആയതു് സംക്ഷിപ്തമായി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ദീർഘകാലത്തേക്ക് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ മര്യാദയും നീതിയും നയകുശലതയും നിറഞ്ഞ ഒരു ഭരണം ആയിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പാർഷ്യാലിറ്റിയോ പാർട്ടി സ്പിരിറോ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു മനസ്ഥിതി അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനാൽ ജനരഞ്ജനകരും പുറമെ അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരുടെയിടയിൽ ഒരു ബഹുമാന്യമായ പദവിയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതാണ്. തൻെറ മേന്മയേറിയ സദ്ഭാവ വൈശിഷ്ട്യവും ഔദ്യോഗികമായ സ്റ്റാറസും ഈ സഭക്ക് ഒരു ഭൂഷണംതന്നെയായിരുന്നു. പുതിയ കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ തൻെറ മുൻഗാമിയുടെ എല്ലാ മേന്മകളും പുലർത്തി ഈ സഭക്കു മേലാൽ ഇതിൻെറ പ്രശസ്തിയെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ നിസ്തുല്യമായ ഔദ്യോഗിക വൈദഗ്ദ്ധ്യത്തോടുകൂടി പുലർത്തുവാൻ സംഗതിയാകട്ടെയെന്ന് ഞാൻ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി ആഗ്രഹിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറ അവർകളുടെ 'ടോഡീസ് ആൻറ് കൺടാകറസ് ക്രിട്ടിക്സ്' എന്ന ക്ലാസിഫിക്കേഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് രണ്ടു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വാക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. സർ, അവിടുന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ രണ്ടിനത്തിൽ മാത്രമല്ല ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ മൂവിംഗ് ഫോഴ്സ് സസ്സ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ആപൽക്കരമായ, അല്ല ഭയങ്കരമായ വേറെ ഒരിനം കൂടിയുണ്ടെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിനീതമായ പക്ഷം. അതു് എലിയെ തോല്പിച്ചു് ഇല്ലത്തിനു തീ വക്കുന്നവരാണു്. അവർ കളം കലക്കി പരുന്തിനു കൊടുക്കുവാനും മടിക്കാത്തവരാണു്. അവർ ഉടുക്കുവാൻ കൊള്ളാത്തതു് കീറിക്കളയുവാൻ മടിക്കാത്തവരുംകൂടിയാണു്. അങ്ങാടിയിൽ തോറ്റു് അമ്മയുടെ നേർക്കു പായുന്നവരെപ്പോലെ മേലിലെങ്കിലും അവരുടെ ഹൃദയശുദ്ധിയും ബുദ്ധിവിലാസവും പ്രതാപവും മൂകസഹസ്രങ്ങളുടെ വയറ്റിൽ വിലാപത്തിനു് ഒരു ആലാപമായി പര്യവസാനിക്കട്ടെ എന്നുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ എന്റെ ചെറുപ്രസംഗത്തെ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Miss G. M. D'Souza.—Sir, I congratulate the Finance Member on the surplus Budget he has presented to the House, when several other Governments have been finding it very difficult to balance their Budgets. Last year also the Finance Member presented the House with a surplus Budget, but the revised estimates for the current year show that the budgetted expenditure of Rs. 97.84 lakhs mounted up to 104.1 Lakhs, leaving a large deficit. It is to be hoped that in view of the possibilities of an early economic recovery there would be no serious variation in the budgetted figures and the anticipated surplus of Rs. 46,300 would actually be realised.

Permit me, Sir, to point out that the needs of the Nation Building departments, such as the Panchayats, Public Health, Education, and Agriculture have not been sufficiently provided for. These departments exist for the welfare of the rural public ; and when it is borne in mind that the bulk of the revenue is realised from the villages, it is only just and fair that ample provisions are made for the necessary amenities of life in rural areas. The more so, because both in British India and the Native States, rural reconstruction has become a pressing and urgent need of the hour.

Though the Public Health Department was subjected to hostile criticism, by some Honourable Members of this House I, as one belonging to the Medical profession, must unhesitatingly point out, that it can and is doing much to promote the general health and therefore, the material prosperity of the rural Cochin, which constitutes over 3/4 of the population of the State.

It is indeed very much to be regretted that there are still a large number of villages in the outlying parts of the State

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

which have neither Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas nor allopathic rural dispensaries. The health of the people of these villages, especially in the coastal regions, is extremely unsatisfactory and they have no medical aid within their reach. It is therefore necessary in the interest of public health to open more health centres and rural dispensaries and increase the number of health visitors, sub-assistant surgeons and midwives.

I may be allowed also to bring to the notice of the Government, one of the most pressing needs of Trichur Town, namely, an abundant supply of good and drinking water for the growing population, during the hot months of the year when almost all wells get dried up. Last year during the general discussion of the Budget, I had occasion to emphasise the seriousness of this problem. We are grateful to you, Sir, for having taken up this question and given us a few more street hydrants this year. But the problem will not be solved until the Government work out a more comprehensive scheme, which will ensure a generous outlay of hydrants including house connections.

In passing, I wish to make a reference to the serious anomaly of giving admission to girls in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, in those subjects for which there is provision in the neighbouring St. Teresa's College for women. At present there are about 200 or more girls in the boys' College, at Ernakulam. This institution promises to become very soon a girls' college rather than a boys' college. By giving admission to 200 girls in the boys' college, an equal number of boys have been deprived of seats and their parents have been put to considerable expenditure to send them to outside colleges.

I understand that some of the Honourable Members of this House had occasion previously to bring to the notice of the Government the obvious injustice involved in this arrangement which has adversely affected the strength of the St. Teresa's College for women. This is all the more to be regretted when regard is had to the fact that the staff and equipment of the St. Teresa's College compare favourably with the other colleges in the Presidency; and at the University examination, both the Intermediate and B. A., this college has been invariably producing brilliant results. For example, in the last year's University examination, this college produced the only First Class in the Presidency in English and in other subjects also it had to its credit, far better results than those of the neighbouring and other colleges.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Besides, if only girls attend women's colleges, they can have full facilities for physical development and social and cultural life unfettered by restraint incidental to girls studying in a boys' college. It is due to these considerations that women's colleges have been opened in Madras, in Travancore and other centres ; and the authorities in these centres do not admit girls in boys' colleges for subjects in which there is provision in the former.

Last year I had occasion to invite your attention to the serious disabilities the Anglo-Indian community is labouring under, in the matter of appointments in the higher grade in the State service. The economic well being of our community depends very much on Government appointments for very few of our people possess lands or capital necessary to take to agriculture or commerce to earn a livelihood. This disability of our community was emphasised by Lt. Col. Henry Gidney at the Round Table Conference. The leading representatives of Indian opinion especially Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar admitted the claim of the community for special safeguards in the matter of appointments and educational facilities for some years to come until the community can stabilise its economic position.

Sir, may I point out to you that the British Parliament have recognised and placed on a statutory basis the claims of the Anglo-Indians for special treatment in the matter of appointments in British India. We the Anglo-Indians of the Cochin State feel that the Government of Cochin have similar obligation to protect the interests of our community. I therefore appeal to the Government that similar treatment may be given to the Anglo-Indians of the State.

There was a time when the Cochin Government had to depend on the services of Anglo-Indian officials to work such departments as Medical, Engineering, the Police, the Excise and the English section of the Huzur Secretariat. Then there were a number of Anglo-Indian officials; some of them were even departmental heads. But now there are only 3 Anglo-Indians in the State service in the higher grade. There is only one Anglo-Indian departmental Head now. He will be retiring shortly. You may be aware, Sir, from the knowledge you have of our community in British India that our economic well-being and social prestige, as an enlightened minority community depends upon the number of our men holding important offices in the Government service. Last year at the Budget discussion

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I brought to your notice the urgent claim of our community for adequate representation in the State service. But I regret that so far nothing has been done. I therefore appeal to you once again to take into account the claims of our community for preference when appointments are made in the higher grades in the near future.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.—Mr. President, I do not propose to go at great length into the academic discussion of the Budget. However I cannot withstand the temptation to invite the attention of the House to a very pertinent and opportune observation made by the Diwan in his opening speech. It was shown by a retrospective examination of the finances of the State that our income has practically come to stay while expenditure is mounting up. This danger-signal though scaring and arresting, points also to the irresponsibility and the irresponsiveness of the successive executives to the popular demand for drastic reduction of expenditure in all branches of the administration. I hope, Sir, that the dawn of wisdom would not be denied or delayed to the Cochin Government so that they may be enabled to see the moral injustice in paying disproportionately fat salaries to their officers. With rigorous retrenchment and stopping for good the huge amounts annually spent on unnecessary and luxurious tours, I am sure we can confine the expenditure within the resources of the State, without in any way impairing the activities of the nation-building department. I know, Sir, that such criticisms and suggestions have become rather stale by their being repeated so often in this Council and a Government which has no taste or admiration even for fresh and novel ideas will not be influenced by them. Nevertheless I am fortified in the hope that these reflections would throw a shaft of light on the most outstanding and urgent problem, that agitates the public mind. I mean, Sir, the constitutional reforms. India of Britain is on the threshold of momentous constitutional changes, while India of Indians is still in the depth of constitutional paganism. Is it not strange that Cochin which is intellectually and educationally more advanced than British India should be prevented from attaining her legitimate right for self Government? The issue of constitutional reforms was sought to be confused, though not deliberately, by the Diwan in pointing out certain legal and technical difficulties involved in the changes demanded. But you know, Sir, more than us the real nature and force of such contentions advanced by men in power when confronted with the question of sharing it with the people. The granting of reforms to the people of Cochin would

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

not in any way affect the relations of the Ruler with the Sovereign Power. That relation has in no way undergone any change by the institution of a legislative Council. It is still on a par with the relation subsisting between many of the northern Indian Princes who have not even instituted a legislature, and the paramount power. Even the granting of the Provincial Autonomy does nat take away the ultimate power residing in the Governor as the constitutional head. The reforms in British India are directed towards only the Independence of internal administration. This fact would reveal to us that a transferring of responsibility to the people for the complete control in the internal administration does not and cannot in any way affect the relation with the paramount power of the Maharaja who can still be the ultimate seat of power and authority like the Governors in Indian Provinces. The Ministers of the State can be safely kept out of the forbidden ground of 'relations with the British Government'. So, sir, I presume the reasons for reluctance on the part of the Government to concede constitutional changes are to be sought elsewhere. Unfortunately for our country Cochin politics is dominated by toadies and flunkeys. The few public men we have are frightened out of their elements at the sneeze of a police man. A discerning eye would certainly see through all the masks and assess the real intensity of the freedom struggle. But I would ask whether it is sensible, just and reasonable to wait always for the production of a certificate of fitness in sacrifice and suffering of the people? Is it the position of the Government that blood should be spilt and untold sufferings undergone before the people vindicate their right to freedom? I would have thought so, sir, but the presence of the present Diwan as the executive head of administration still gives me hope. He was a fighter in the cause of the Indian freedom and I can never believe that when it was in his power to confer that freedom for which he with his countrymen yearned for and strived for, he would flinch. The statesmanship displayed in that direction would be the crowning glory of his political career and of what all good he has done for the State. I do not believe, sir, that acrimonious invectives will carry us far. But with determination and unflinching faith in the cause we fight for we shall march ahead and shall certainly open the the flood gates of our freedom.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—Mr. President, Sir, This is the occasion for the non-official members of this House to review the activities of the several departments of the Government and also to criticise the budget in a general way. But before doing

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

so I wish to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member who is perhaps the shortest member in the whole British Empire (Laughter) for presenting a surplus Budget. But I wish to bring to the notice of the Finance Member a passage from the ancient book 'Arthasasthra' which says that if the Finance Member collects from the people more than what is absolutely necessary he should be punished by his nose being cut off. If that rule is strictly followed the Finance Member will be deprived of his nose and what a wonderful spectacle it would have been to see him wandering about the streets of Ernakulam without a nose! (Laughter) Now I begin the review of the activities of the Government. To use the Finance Member's own language, there are credit entries and debit entries in the record of the Government activities. There are spheres in which Government have succeeded and there are spheres in which Government have failed miserably. I find three bold entries marked on the credit side. First of all there is the Harbour question. It has been successfully settled. There are people in the State who first glorified the achievements of the Diwan at the Harbour Conference and who received him as a conqueror but later on detracted their statements and described it as a failure. But I don't belong to that school. I was of opinion that the settlement of the Harbour question was in the best interests of the State and I hold that opinion even now. After investing 120 lakhs of rupees on the Harbour and the Railway if the 4th stage of the Harbour was indefinitely postponed we are the greatest losers. If interest is calculated at the rate of 5 per cent we will be losing nearly 6 lakhs of rupees every year. Therefore it was highly necessary so far as our State is concerned that a speedy settlement should be arrived at. In the circumstances of the case I think that it would not have been possible to obtain a settlement more advantageous to us.

The second entry on the credit side is the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank. Though I do not admit that a Land Mortgage Bank is the panacea for all the economic evils the ryots are suffering still the principle has to be accepted and it has gone a great way in helping the agriculturists. Besides the house has been asking for such an institution for a long time.

Then the third is the Staff Selection Board. I do not enter into the merits of the number allotted to the respective communities. But I approve of the principle and congratulate the Diwan for taking such a bold step which will add to the welfare of the unrepresented communities of His Highness' subjects.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Now I come to the entries on the debit side. Here, the first and foremost entry is the thorough failure of the Government to give any substantial relief to the struggling agricultural debtors. On 13th Karkidakam last year a proclamation was issued staying the execution of decrees. After that what happened? The term of the proclamation expired in Makaram. The decree-holders began to execute their decrees with redoubled vigour. It is said a circular has been issued by the Chief Court to the effect that if something is paid to the decree-holders more time will be given. I am bringing to the Government's notice by means of a question an instance where a Munsiff has refused to grant any time where 15 per cent of the decree amount was paid. That is how the Chief Court circular works. The present position of the agriculturists is something like that of the Israeilites who were removed from the captivity of Pharoah but were without being taken into the promised land left to perish on the desert.

Now with regard to the Advisory committees, I want to say something on that. The President in his speech referred to the working of the committees. In the Government proceedings constituting the Advisory Committees it is stated that two meetings will be held every year. But the committee met only once. If the committees are working very successfully as is stated in the Diwan's opening speech why only one meeting was held? I submit the statistics given by the President are misleading. According to the constitution of these committees only such subjects will be discussed by the Council as will be allowed by the Diwan and it will be clear that resolutions on uncontroversial, harmless and innocent subjects only will be passed by the Advisory Committee. Therefore there is no wonder that the Government were able to accept such a large number of resolutions. In my opinion, the advisory committees serve no useful purpose. I am saying this not because I stood for election and was defeated. At that time I never thought that these committees will be so helpless. If there is a re-election I won't stand. In the matter of Constitutional reforms I cannot blame the Government entirely. The people should organize themselves and ask for reforms. There should be parties out side the Council and they should nominate candidates for election to the council. There are parties within the council also. But they do not work properly. Our party, the peoples party, has never met.

Mr. President.—The advisory Committees have met once.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—While criticising the general principles of the Budget I wish to say that the Government have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

totally ignored the depression. The Government think that there is no depression at all. But so late as the early part of Kanni the Government declared that the depression is still continuing. Now by a miracle of the Alladian's Wonderful Lamp the depression is gone.

Before finishing I want to make two observations, regarding the speech made by the Hon'ble Member for Oorakam. There is no malice behind it. I sympathise with him in his grievances. But I cannot accept his opinion in the matter of foreign capital, British Indians and so on. We should not be parochial. There should be friendship between British Indian Provinces and the native states. My learned friend is a staunch supporter of the Congress whose aim is a Federation of British Indian Provinces and the Native states. If we are going to discriminate by such methods we will not be able to achieve that end. Of course, in the matter of appointments we must have Cochinites. "Charity begins at home" cannot be applied in all spheres. In certain spheres we are not self-supporting. With the completion of the Cochin Harbour, we will be made to depend more and more on British Indian capital and British Indian Businessmen. The Hon'ble Member for Oorakam questioned the advisability of taking loans. In fact the productive expenses like Railway and Harbour ought to be met from loans. It should not be met from current revenue. Why should the present generation be asked to pay all the expenses in connection with the Harbour and the Railway and future generations be asked to enjoy the benefits thereof without any liability? The Government have accepted a very sound economic principle.

The House rose for lunch at 1 p m. and re-assembled at 2-15 p. m. with the Deputy President (M. R. Ry. A. Sankara Menon Avl., B. A..& B. L.) in the Chair.

Mr. P. Sankunni Menon.—I rise and venture to offer a few remarks on the Budget as presented before the Council by the Hon'ble the Finance Member and my remarks shall be confined to the operation of the budgetary provisions in so far as it attempts to try to meet the crying need of my constituency. I shall not attempt to soar the Ionian Mount and launch upon cantankerous criticisms of every administrative action of the head of the Government because in my humble view in a general discussion on the budget these have no proper place. They will be merely flights of rhetorical inanities.

The constituency which I represent is in point of density of population to the square mile ranked as the second in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

whole State; and in point of proximity to the biggest enterprise of the century, the Cochin Harbour, the nearest. It is a constituency which comprises villages abutting the backwaters whose western boundary is washed by the great Arabian Sea lying in between that vast ocean on the one side and the Travancore State on the east, lying in parallel lines separated by rectangles constituted by the backwaters. If the port of Cochin is to be the Queen of the Arabian Sea, this constituency will be the Crown of that Queen.

The two urgent and vital needs of that constituency are (1) good drinking water, (2) good and easy communications—wants which on all hands will be readily admitted to be the most elementary of the minimum requirements of any area included within the pale of any civilised Government. For all these coastal regions where the density of population is so high it is seen from a perusal of the budget that on the Engineering, Sanitary and Medical side the provisions are scanty and meagre, and that these two elementary and modest necessities of life are sadly and cruelly neglected and that no sort of attempt is seen made to provide for them even to a limited extent. Indeed one would think that the framers of the budget forgot not only the vital needs but even the geographical existence of this constituency except for the few items of work here and there which form the washings as it were of the budget. I shall not be guilty of exaggeration if I paint the picture of the plight of the inhabitants of this area who on account of the absence of any decent means of communication—in certain parts not even an apology for a pathway—have to exert themselves to the utmost extent by so to speak rope-walking over thin ridges separating paddy fields in which a false or halting step in the horizontal position suo moto lays the walker parallel to the earth, from there to rise and all thirsty on account of the heat of the exercise to quench it by water which is a concentrated solution of salt. During the hottest season of the year for whole months, you cannot have a sip of good drinking water and even the brackish solution is a scarcity. It is a sight which would draw tears to one's eyes to see in the sultry sun young children and women-folk darting to the hot sands of Azhikkal, there on bended knees digging pits with their hands in the burning sands for a handful of water. The people of this constituency have been groaning under these difficulties for a very long time and in spite of constant and repeated agitation a deaf ear is given to them. It behoves me therefore as their representative to voice their strong protest at this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in-human budget and to condemn the scanty and meagre provisions made in it to meet these dire and everyday needs. In last year's budget you will find a provision made for the repair of a building, the Kovilakam at Chittur for which a sum of Rs. 1000 is set apart while the whole village of Cheranellur of which Chittur is only a part is totally starved of the benefits of any other rural welfare scheme than the provision under the head of cleaning charges of an additional sweeper. This beats all record of rural welfare scheme. The most urgent need of Chittur is not the beautifying of the Palace building but the construction of a bridge connecting Chittur with Vaduthala—a construction which was repeatedly promised to be taken up at the earliest possible time, but never till now nor even for next year provided for—the nearest approach to its being done being the passing of an order that it will be included in the budget of 1107. This bridge would be of immense commercial importance to the whole village and its adjoining parts by facilitating easy and cheap means of transports for the agricultural produce of these areas to the commercial centre of the State—the Harbour. While the needs of these rural areas are so pressing and vital, one is aghast at the statement that savings were had last year by cuts under communication and Public Works and this year under 'Communications' under Panchayats. This indicates the absence of a definite rural development scheme or programme under which the vital needs of all the villages can be tackled one by one in proportion to their urgency on all fronts and accounts also for the startling facts that while certain villages are totally neglected and starved of even the bare amenities of life, some others are over-fed.

The other disappointing feature of the budget from the point of view of the rural population is the discontinuance of the remission in the tax. The main reason alleged is that the remission has not proved beneficial to the ryots really called as such. One is surprised at the statement made because it is against all facts. In a country which is predominantly agricultural; where the main occupation of the people is the cultivation of lands, it passes one's comprehension to understand how the benefit of the remission could not reach the ryots. Even though the lands belong in ownership to jenmies, the lands are in the possession of tenants under more or less favourable tenures such as Kanom, Adima, Panayam, Verumpattom. The main feature of all these tenures is that the tenant who is in actual cultivation of the lands should pay the tax either to the jenmi or to the State direct, in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

either of which case he is entitled to the benefit of the reduction. To say, therefore, that the "ryots as such" whatever it may mean, do not stand to gain by the remission is without foundation. I would, therefore, earnestly request the Government to restore the remission taken away on such ill-founded allegation and give at least that much relief to the poor hard-hit agriculturist who constitute the major portion of the population of the rural parts.

* **Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.**—Sir, it has been my painful duty often-times to criticise the Government in many of its acts and its policies. That notwithstanding, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate His Highness' Government and especially the Diwan Sir Shanmukham Chetty, in having taken the first step in the solution of a problem which has seriously baffled the Government during the last many years. Long before this Council came into existence, communities inadequately represented in the service, for example, the Christians, Ezhuvas, &c. have been agitating through the press and the platform for the adoption of necessary safeguards that would ensure those communities a representation in the Public Service commensurate with their number. Though the Government always pretended to extend their sympathy for this legitimate demand, they refused to lay down definite rules tying the hands of the appointing authorities. The most heated discussions this House has seen have been over this unsettled question and one of its Presidents went so far as to say that he would not allow this communal question to be raised in the House. We have travelled far from those days. Mr. Herbert made a very genuine and prolonged attempt to solve the question but he failed. It has fallen to you, Sir, to formulate measures which I am sure will gladden the hearts of the communities who for years had to fight against inequality and all along suffer therefrom. Let me hope that the solution that you have devised will create a better understanding between community and community. Now that a disturbing element has been largely removed, I appeal to those communities who must naturally be affected by the fixing of the proportion to receive the new order in good spirit.

The rules no doubt have fallen far short of expectations. There may be strong reasons to exempt appointments of over Rs. 100/- from the rules, but there are equally strong reasons against any such exemption. It is the higher officers that are in fact in charge of the administration and representation there,

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is as essential as, if not more, in the lower rungs. There is one difference. Representation in the lower rungs has more economic but less political and administrative value but the position is reversed in regard to the higher rungs. The present rules do not give the communities representation in proportion to their number. Once minimum qualifications are laid down there is absolutely no danger in fixing the proportion exactly according to number; for if a backward or uneducated community fails to supply, the resort can be had to a community which can supply. The Government have unnecessarily kept out of the operation of the rules certain categories of officers. Whatever justification there may be to exclude the Palace, Devaswom, etc., I cannot find any justification for excluding the Nayar Brigade and the Office of Parvathiam. Indeed it is not a desire to emulate the Nayar Brigade in their immediate martial activities that make communities both in Travancore and Cochin claim representation therein. It may be the Brigade have to attend to functions which cannot be discharged by persons drafted from some of the communities in the State, such as the Christian and the Ezhuva. But guarding the treasuries, and many other functions now discharged by the Brigade can be equally efficiently discharged by recruits from any community. In regard to Village Officers there is absolutely no justification for any reservation. The cry has always been heard at times of elections that the Village Officers were deliberately manipulating the lists and were interfering in elections. I hope that before you lay down your office you will introduce a perfect set of rules which will give satisfaction for all communities for all time.

While the rules that the Government have introduced in regard to representation in service must necessarily take away much of the fire from communal antagonism, there is another matter remaining which may periodically rekindle it, I mean the Legislative Council and representation thereto. You, Sir, who have come across most advanced systems of parliamentary representation, must have noticed the extremely archaic system prevalent here. The electoral rules are such that not even 4% of the people have been qualified to vote at the elections. In an advanced State like Cochin, with an intelligent and law-abiding people it is difficult to see why the rules that obtain in British India cannot be adopted here. The qualification for franchise, as it stands, is mainly based on tax. I hope that an adult franchise subject to the literacy qualification will be introduced before long.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

You must also have noticed, Sir, that the powers of the Legislative Council are almost nil. Even now, we remain recommendators. Our resolutions carry little weight. We have no manner of control over the finances. The italics in the Budget and the reservations in the Regulation and the rules leave very little for us even to comment on. Pardon me, Sir, if I think differently of the working of Advisory Committees. No doubt these committees are from amidst us, but their opinions or recommendations do not, as in the case of regular committees of the House, come before us and are not subjected to our wholesome scrutiny and criticism. I, for one, would request the Government not to regard the views of these committees as reflecting the opinion of the House.

I am not sure whether I should congratulate the Government on being able to balance their Budget for 1112; for so did they balance the one for the current year which is going to terminate in a deficit of 5½ lakhs of rupees. With political and other pieces of expenditure on the miscellaneous side prone to jump from 34,000 at the beginning of the year to 1,50,000 at the end, with big guest houses and Delhi houses in hand and other matters of which we know nothing at present, I know not where we shall be when the year 1113 is ushered in.

A very large portion of the Diwan's opening statement has been devoted to a justification of the loan that was recently raised by the Government. With a sound Budgetary position, with finances stable and quite in order, with a Railway worth over a crore and a half and a harbour, one of the finest in the world, none would have thought that Cochin would ever be afraid of being short of cash or of being turned down in the Money Market, especially when her destinies are in the strong and effective hands of a reputed financier. I confess that the lengthy explanation of the Diwan in regard to the Harbour and the loan has highly perplexed me. While I do not wish to say a word about the Harbour, I cannot forget what has been reverberating in my ears, the commitment of Cochin in the fourth stage works. The Diwan's statement dated 9th December 1935 told us in the clearest terms that our contribution for the fourth stage works was only 31 lakhs, with another 31 lakhs we undertook to advance in place of another. 62 lakhs was indeed a high figure but now new additions are made to it by the Dredger and the Railway extension, both of which ought to have formed part and parcel of the fourth stage works. The addition is a considerable sum of 23 lakhs, a high figure for Cochin. In spite of having

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to contribute 85 lakhs of rupees I am not satisfied that there was any necessity for the new loan or for the hurry with which it was floated. The Government of Cochin have never been placed in anxiety at any time in regard to its balances. I do not know what are the demands which are likely to cause anxiety to the Government so that they thought it wise to retain 45 or 50 lakhs as the cash balance. There are no schemes of any magnitude, except the Harbour, whose commitments are ascertained and taken into account. Why then I ask the haste in raising the loan, if there were no immediate demands? The cause for anxiety has not been explained. We could have waited and raised the loan whenever it became necessary. And I am sure a little more waiting and consultation with local Banking talent that there is in the State would have enabled to cut down the large amount paid to under-writers.

Let us have an idea of our financial position. We borrow Rs. 105 lakhs by 2 loans. We borrow 37 lakhs from the Government of India so that we would soon be indebted to the extent of 1 crore and 42 lakhs for which every year we have to pay an interest over 6,50,000. Besides we have to set apart a similar amount, to create a sinking fund, if we have a mind to pay off our debts. It is difficult to find funds from our ordinary revenue to meet these demands. We depend upon the Railway and the Harbour for this purpose. As for the Railway I doubt whether we can expect much more over the present net income of nearly 6 lakhs. As for the Harbour, the customs have almost reached only a lakh in an aggregate further increase of 10 lakhs. As for the payment of interest over the investment, let us hope that the income of Harbour authorities would be sufficient to pay us our interest on our investments coming to nearly a crore, after paying off the guaranteed interest to the British Government. We are in all investing in the Railway and the Harbour 2 crores and 6 lakhs and one shudders when one sees some critics shouting out that we have yet to hear of Harbours which have paid on or repaid investments thereon. The charge in favour of the British Government for interest due to them on 29 lakhs and Cochin's undertaking to spend 31 lakhs more which British India hesitated to spend make one fear that there may be some ground for this criticism.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say a word about industrialisation of the State. It was very pleasant to hear from the Diwan that for trade purposes Cochin and British India are one. I wish the authorities in British India had thought likewise. British India has not yet invited

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Cochin Industrialists or financiers to start textiles or raise loans. It was painful to see that while the Sitarams of Trichur were not allowed time to pay up, a managing agency Ramal, hitherto unheard of in Cochin, found favour with the Government, which invested 1½ lakhs in their concern. While a Trichur Electric concern, which delayed carrying out works to accommodate the State's schemes for general electrification was unceremoniously pushed out, a Chandrie became the pet in the land and the master of many and Government invested a very large amount in the concern. The argument that Cochinites have taken shares and are in the directorate is unconvincing. What is the number of shares Cochinites have? Above all, can Cochin people ever dream of having the slightest control in these concerns? I was a little shocked to hear the Diwan justifying the starting of a Textiles near Trichur by a comparison drawn from Japan and England. Cheap machinery, cheap power, suitable climate, cheap expert advice and Government support are factors which have contributed to develop textiles in England and Japan. Do these exist in Cochin? Which is the adjoining consumer of whom reference has been made by the Diwan? Pioneer industries or industries intended to utilise local raw material advantageously may be matters for Government support. The textiles deserve encouragement from one point of view, that it is an indirect encouragement to the Electric company which has been forced on Trichur.

I do not wish to say more. Although as a member of the Merchants' Association I am qualified to be a politician in spite of being a lawyer, I am not much of a land-owner to speak with feeling on the decision of the Government to stop the remission in the land tax. In justification of this decision the Finance Member has given 2 grounds. (1) Improving economic condition (2) Opinion generally given expression to that the remission has not proved beneficial to the State in its straitened financial condition or to the ryots really called as such. I would join issue on these. Who told the Finance Member that the economic condition in the State has improved? No doubt the withdrawal of the pay cut and the regularity of yearly increments have improved the financial condition of Government servants. But those of us who have occasion to come in touch with the people know that their present economic condition is the worst that it ever has been. As for the statement that the remission has not proved beneficial to the State finances, I can only commend him who discovered this for high honours at the hands of the Government. No doubt the Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

could have made up for the remission by a little economy on the miscellaneous side and on luxuries. But the Miscellaneous side has ever been a waster and expenditure on luxuries is running a race. As for the position that the ryots really called as such have not been benefitted I would ask whose opinion the Finance Member has ascertained or valued? Whoever has given the opinion, the pages of the Legislative Council Reports will show that the Government had always thought otherwise.

"Cut your coat according to your cloth" is a wise saying which even Governments will do well to act on. Then there will be no need for loans and no necessity for under-writers. Discriminatory economy in expenditure enabled the Cochin Government to pile up a cash surplus of over a crore of rupees in 8 years. There was no income-tax then nor a duty on matches. But correspondingly State guest houses and State cars were also much less in number. All the same, people were contended and in full enjoyment of the benefits of a beneficient administration. A return to the past may be impossible, but even in the present it will always be well to remember that the happiness and the contentment of the people are the things for which Governments exist.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. എസ്സ്. കൃഷ്ണൻ വൈദ്യർ.— സർ, സമുദായ സോപാനത്തിന്റെ ഏറ്റവും താഴ്ന്ന പടിയിൽ, മർദ്ദനം ഏറ്റും സങ്കടമനുഭവിച്ചും, ഉയരുവാനും വളരുവാനും ഇടവും വെളിച്ചവും കിട്ടാതേയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ജനവിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിക്കു ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി ഇവിടെ ഒരു കൃത്യം നിർവഹിക്കുവാനുണ്ട്. അതു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ സർവജനങ്ങളുടേയും ക്ഷേമൈശ്വര്യങ്ങളെ മുൻനിറുത്തി, പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടേയും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു പാവങ്ങളുടേയും, ഭക്തിബഹുമാനാദരങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു പാത്രീഭൂതമാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തനംചെയ്യുന്ന നമ്മുടെ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവൺമെൻറു, അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിനായി ചെയ്തുപോരുന്ന സ്തുത്യർഹമായ പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾക്കു, ആ പൊന്നുതിരുമേനിയോടുള്ള എന്റെ വിനീതവും ഹാർദ്ദവുമായ കൃതജ്ഞതാപ്രകാശനമാണു്. അവശതകൊണ്ടു അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരുടെ ഉത്തമബന്ധുവെന്നു പണ്ടുതന്നെ പ്രഖ്യാതനായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള ദിവാൻജി, സർ ഷൺമുഖംചെട്ടി അവർകൾ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ മന്ത്രിപദത്തെ അലങ്കരിക്കുന്നതും, ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ അധഃകൃതജനതയ്ക്കു ഒരു വലിയ അനുഗ്രഹമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്ന അഭിനിവേശവും ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയും ഞങ്ങളെ എന്നെന്നേക്കും ആ മഹാപുരുഷനോടു കൃതജ്ഞരാക്കിച്ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരുടെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഉന്നമനത്തിനായി ഗവമ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യപോരുന്ന അനുഭാവപൂർവമായ ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഞാൻ ഇതാ എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെപേരിൽ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ ഈ മഹാസഭസ്സിൽ വെച്ചു അഞ്ജലിബദ്ധനായി അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു.

വിവിധങ്ങളായ വർഗ്ഗനാമങ്ങളാൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്നതും, ഏതാണ്ടു ഒരേവിധത്തിലുള്ള അവശതകൾക്കു വിധേയരായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളവരുമായ അധഃകൃതർ എന്നു ജനവിഭാഗം ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ കൃഷി, കൈത്തൊഴിൽ എന്നീ ജോലികളിലേർപ്പെട്ട ഉപജീവനം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു ദരിദ്രസമുദായമാണു്. അധഃകൃതർ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ആദിമനിവാസികളാണെന്നും, ഏതോ രാഷ്ട്രീയപരിവർത്തനത്തിന്റേയോ, സമുദായപരിവർത്തനത്തിന്റേയോ ഭയനീയ ഫലമായി അവർ അധഃപതിച്ചുപോയതാണെന്നും ചരിത്രം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ പൂർവചരിത്രം എത്രമാത്രം അഭിമാനകരമായാലും ഇന്നത്തെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ നില അതിമാത്രമായ അനുകമ്പയെ അർഹിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഇന്നു ഭ്രമുഖത്തിൽ മനുഷ്യനു ഏതെല്ലാം കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളുണ്ടോ, അവയെല്ലാം വിധേയരായി ഞങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുകയാണു്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ധനമില്ല, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമില്ല, സ്വാധീനമില്ല, സംഘടനയില്ല, ഒരു സമുദായത്തിന്റെ നിലനില്പിനു വേണ്ടതായ സാഹചര്യങ്ങളൊന്നുമില്ല. ഭ്രമിയോടു ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട, പരിഷ്കൃത ജനസമുദായവുമായി എത്രയോ അകന്നു നില്ക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഏകധനം പ്രയത്നം മാത്രമാണു്. നാമമാത്രമായ ഒരു പ്രതിഫലത്തിനു ഞങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പ്രയത്നത്തെ കേരളത്തിനു സമർപ്പിച്ചു. ഈ രാജ്യം വിഭവസമൃദ്ധവും മനോഹരവുമായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അധഃകൃതന്റെ വിയർപ്പുതുള്ളിയാണു് അതിനു കാരണം. എനിക്കും എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിനും ഈ രാജ്യത്തോടുള്ള ബന്ധം, ഇന്നു ഇത്രമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ.

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ധനകാര്യമെമ്പർ ഈ സഭസ്സിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഫ്ഫ്ഫ്വ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിനെക്കുറിച്ചു വിശദമായ ഒരു നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. ആ കൃത്യം എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരായ മറ്റു സാമാജികന്മാർ യഥാവിധി നിർവഹിച്ചുകൊള്ളുമെന്നു എനിക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ ഉത്തമതാല്പര്യങ്ങളെ പരിഗണിച്ചു ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ചില ഇനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു എന്റെ വിനീതമായ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ സമർപ്പിക്കാം. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ സജീവമായ രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിലോ, ഗഹനങ്ങളായ സാമ്പത്തിക നയോപദേശങ്ങളിലോ, പങ്കുകൊള്ളുന്നതിനു എനിയ്ക്കോ എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിനോ കാലമായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പരിമിതമായ ഒരു പരിധിയെ അവലംബിച്ചായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആദ്യമേ പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

അധഃകൃതോന്നമനത്തിനായി ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വെ@ാ ഉറുപ്പിക നീക്കി വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു് ഫ്രഫ്രഫ്ര-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു സംഖ്യയേക്കാൾ മൂൻ,ാാാ ഉറുപ്പിക കൂറഞ്ഞുള്ള ഒരു തുകയാണു്. അധഃകൃതരുടെ സർവ്വതോമുഖമായ ആവശ്യങ്ങളും വർദ്ധമാനമായിരിക്കെ, ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു കുറവു ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടതു് തീരെ അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമാണു്. അധഃകൃതരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു കൂടുതൽ പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങളും, അധഃകൃതരുടെ സാമ്പത്തികാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു പുതിയ പദ്ധതികളും ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ എല്ലാ സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലും ഔദ്യോഗികമായും നിർവഹിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു കാലമാണിതു്. അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണത്തിനു പ്രശസ്തിനേടിയ കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു, മേലിൽ ഈ ഒരിനത്തിൽ യാതൊരു വിധത്തിലും ലുബ്ധു കാണിക്കരുതെന്നു ഭരണാധികാരികളോടു ഞാൻ സവിനയം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

അധഃകൃതരെ മുതലാളിമാരുടേയും ജന്മികളുടേയും പിടിയിൽനിന്നു് മോചിപ്പിച്ചു അവർക്കു സ്വാശ്രയശീലവും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യബുദ്ധിയും ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ, അവർക്കായി പ്രത്യേകം കോളനികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാനും, പുതുവൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാനും ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഒരു പദ്ധതിയാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഓരോ അധഃകൃതകുടുംബത്തിനും അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലം, ഇപ്പോഴത്തെപ്പോലെ ൧൦ സെൻറു്, ൨൦ സെൻറു് എന്ന വ്യവസ്ഥമാറ്റി അവർക്കു അത്യാവശ്യം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യമുള്ള വിധത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ളതാക്കണമെന്നു എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്. അധഃകൃതരുടെ സാമ്പത്തിക പുരോഗമനത്തെ പുരസ്കരിച്ചു സ്ഥാപിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള പരസ്പരസഹായ സംഘങ്ങളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം, ഇപ്പോൾ തൃപ്തികരമാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. അവയെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചും, അവകൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രയോജനത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഗാഢമായ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ഒരു ജനസമുദായത്തിൻെറ ഉദ്ധാരണപരിപാടിയിൽ, വിപുലവും ഉദാരവുമായ ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ നയത്തിൻെറ ആവശ്യകതയെക്കുറിച്ചു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു പറയണമെന്നില്ല. ഞങ്ങൾ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ മറ്റു സമുദായങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം എത്തിച്ചേരുന്ന ഒരു കാലം ഇനിയും വിദൂരസ്ഥമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായികാവശതകൾ നീക്കുന്നതിനും, ഞങ്ങൾ സ്വയം ഉയരുന്നതിനും, ഞങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ എന്തെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കുതന്നെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനും, ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആളുകൾ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരാകണം. സമുദായോൽക്കർഷത്തിനുള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ അകമേനിന്നു പുറപ്പെടുന്നതായാൽ അവക്കു ഫലവും വേഗതയുംകൂടും. അതിനാൽ അധഃകൃതരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം, ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ നയം കുറേക്കൂടി ഉദാരമാകണമെന്നു അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃത വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ എ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ണ്ണം ഈയിടെയായി മൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതായാണു ഗവമ്മെൻറു പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടുകളിൽനിന്നു കാണുന്നതു്. ഇതു് എന്നെപ്പോലെയുള്ളവർക്കു വ്യസനകരമായ വർത്തമാനമാണു്. പ്രൈമറി വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ പഠിച്ചുവരുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു ഭക്ഷണച്ചിലവുവകയിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്ന സംഖ്യ ആഴ്ചയിൽ ഒരണയിൽനിന്നു അരയണയാക്കി വെട്ടിക്കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ദരിദ്രരും, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യത്തിൽ വലിയ 'പാരമ്പര്യ'മില്ലാത്തവരുമായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കു പ്രൈമറി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു പ്രേരണ നൽകുന്ന ഒരു പദ്ധതിയോ, അവരെ അതിനു നിർബ്ബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു നിയമനിർമ്മാണം തന്നെയോ, ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു. സെക്കണ്ടറി വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിലെ അധഃകൃത വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു പ്രത്യേകം പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങൾ നൽകണം. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു ക്ലാസിൽ ഒരിക്കൽ തോറ്റുപോയാൽ അവരുടെ സ്റ്റൈപ്പൻറു നിറുത്തിക്കളയുന്നു. ശരിയായ ഭക്ഷണമോ, സൗകര്യമായ വായനമുറികളോ, രാത്രിയിൽ നല്ല വിളക്കുപോലുമോ, ഇല്ലാത്ത ചെറിയ കുടിലുകളിൽ പഠനസംബന്ധമായ യാതൊരു സഹായവും ലഭിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിൽ, വളർന്നുവരുന്ന അധഃകൃത വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ തോറ്റുപോകുന്നതു് അവർക്കു ബുദ്ധിയില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടോ, പഠിപ്പിൽ ഉത്സാഹമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടോ ആകണമെന്നില്ല. ക്ലാസിൽ ഒരു പ്രാവശ്യം തോറ്റുപോയാൽ സ്റ്റൈപ്പൻറു നിറുത്തുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഉത്സാഹശീലരും, ഉയർന്നവരാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവരുമായ അനവധി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ഭാവിജീവിതത്തെ അലങ്കോലപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് സെക്കൻററി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു സ്റ്റൈപ്പൻറു അനുവദിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാതാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഈയിടെയായി, ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ — വളരെ കുറച്ചുമാത്രം—കോളജു ക്ലാസുകളിൽ പഠിച്ചുതുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു, ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രത്യേകം പദ്ധതികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്. അധഃകൃതരിൽനിന്നു നല്ല ബുദ്ധിയും ഉത്സാഹവുമുള്ള കുറെ യുവാക്കന്മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി അവരെ ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടു്, അമേരിക്ക മുതലായ വിദേശരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ സർവകലാശാലകളിലേക്കു അയയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ശുപാർശചെയ്യും. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും ധീരവുമായി നയിക്കുന്നതിനു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും ലോകപരിചയവുമുള്ള കുറെ യുവജനങ്ങളെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൻെറ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസനയത്തെ കുറെക്കൂടി ഉദാരമാക്കിയാൽ മതി.

ഇപ്പോൾ അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷണ വകുപ്പിൽനിന്നു ഒരു വിദ്യാർത്ഥി ഹോസ്റ്റൽ സൂപ്രിണ്ടുവരെ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തിൽ നടത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു പരിമി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

തമായ ഒരാവശ്യമേ നിർവഹിക്കപ്പെട്ടുന്നുള്ളൂ. എല്ലാ ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളോടും അനുബന്ധിച്ചു അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു ഹോസ്റ്റലുകൾ തുടങ്ങണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും ഫ്രഫ്രസ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ അവയ്ക്കായി പ്രത്യേകം സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവച്ചുകാണുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

അധഃകൃതർക്കു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ പബ്ളിക് സർവ്വീസിൽ വളരെ തുച്ഛമായ പ്രാതിനിധ്യമേ ഉള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡ് ഉദ്യോഗവിതരണ പ്രശ്നത്തിനു ഒരു തീരുമാനമുണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ഞാൻ കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂർവ്വം സ്മരിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ബോർഡ് നിയമങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാത്ത ശിപായി, മാസപ്പടി, പാർവത്യം മുതലായ താഴ്ന്ന ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലധികാരികളുടെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടിക്കു വിഷയമാകണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അവരെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

അധഃകൃതരെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ഗവൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നു ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നടത്തിവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞങ്ങളോടും മറു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾക്കു യാതൊരു ചുമതലയുമില്ലെന്നു് ആരും ധരിച്ചുപോകരുതു്. റവന്യൂ, പരസ്പരസഹായം, വൈദ്യം, പഞ്ചായത്തു്, പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യം എന്നീ വകുപ്പുകളുടെ സഹായങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു എന്നും ആവശ്യമാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു പരീക്ഷണമായി മാത്രം സംയോജിപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഹെൽത്തു പഞ്ചായത്തു വകുപ്പിൽനിന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഇതിനകം പലേ നന്മകളും സിദ്ധിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവ മേലിലും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെപ്പോലെ ഒരു വകുപ്പധ്യക്ഷന്റെ കീഴിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നതായാൽ അതു് കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഹെൽത്തു പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡയറക്ടരുടെ പ്രശംസനീയമായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഭരണത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരത്തെ വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നു. എനിക്കു ഇനി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് പടന്നാന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചാണു്. പടന്ന സമുദായത്തിലെ ഒരംഗമാണു് ഞാൻ. കരുണാവാരിധിയായ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ മന്ത്രിപ്രവരനായ ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയവർകളുടെ ഭരണകാലത്തു് പടന്നാന്മാരെ അനേഷിച്ചു അവരുടെ അവശതകളെ അറിയുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി പടന്ന വട്ടത്തിൽനിന്നും അധഃകൃതരുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയായി എന്നെ നോമിനേറു ചെയ്തതിനു കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂർവമായ എൻറെ നന്ദിയെ പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുകയും പടന്നാന്മാരുടെ ഒരു ഏകദേശനിരൂപണം താഴെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയും ചെയ്യട്ടെ. പടന്നാന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പൂർവപിതാക്കന്മാരെ വടക്കെ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു കേരളത്തിലെ രാജാക്കന്മാർ ഇങ്ങോട്ടു വരുത്തിയതാണു്. ബോംബെയിലേയും തൂത്തുക്കുടിയിലേയും ഉപ്പു ഇവിടെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ സർക്കാർ ഞങ്ങളെ ആ തൊഴിലിൽനിന്നും ബലാൽ പിൻവലിച്ചു. പിന്നീട് തമ്പുരാക്കന്മാരുടെ പള്ളിയോടം തുഴയലും മറ്റുമായിരുന്നതു് നോട്ട്, മോട്ടാർ മുതലായവ വിവിധവാഹനങ്ങളുടെ ആഗമനത്തോടുകൂടി ആ തൊഴിലും നിശ്ശേഷം ഗുണമില്ലാതായിത്തീർന്നു. പിന്നത്തെ ഉദ്യമമായ കല്പണി, മത്സ്യംപിടിത്തം, വള്ളം ഊന്നൽ എന്നിവയാണ് മുഖ്യമായ തൊഴിൽ. കനാൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കനാൽ പിരിവും ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരവർകളുടെ നികുതി പിരിക്കലും ഒക്കെക്കൂടി ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പൊറുതിയില്ലാതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇനി എന്താണ് വേണ്ടതെന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ മറ്റുള്ള അവണ്ണരെപ്പോലെ കൂടുതൽ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ ഞങ്ങളേയും ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ ഇനിയും ദീർഘിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ പൂർവാധികമായ ശ്രദ്ധ മേലിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്ന പ്രതീക്ഷയോടും, ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഉന്നമന പരിശ്രമങ്ങളിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടേയും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ നിയമസഭാംഗങ്ങളുടേയും അനുവാദവും സഹായങ്ങളും അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ ഉപസംഹരിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad.—Mr. President, Sir, I am glad to note that after last year's deficit the Government were able to establish the budget equilibrium this year. In the year under budget there will be, at least apparently, a small surplus. But it is very doubtful whether we can see this surplus when the revised estimate comes.

In his opening speech the Diwan President observed thus: "Though the budgetry position of the Cochin Government can be said to be quite strong, the financial position will have to be watched very carefully and controlled very strictly. The fundamental fact in the financial position of the Cochin Government is that its sources of revenue are practically inelastic but the demands on the revenue are expanding every day. If we are not to be landed very soon in financial difficulties the current expenditure should be kept under very strict control". Sir, this is surely sound advice. But the question is how can we achieve this. This should not be done by starving the development departments or beneficial social services. The only solution which suggests to my mind is by reducing to a minimum the establishment expenditure of the various departments. The policy of the Government of creating new offices and the increasing of the pay of those who are already drawing fat salaries should be discontinued. Then we will be able to maintain

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the equilibrium without reducing the allotment to the various development departments.

I now come to another important subject, viz., the discontinuance of the grant of land revenue remission so very benevolently conferred by His Highness, our beloved Maharaja since 1109. It is interesting to note the following observation of the Finance Member in his speech introducing the budget. "In view of the improving economic condition etc. no remission is proposed to be given in the coming year". I am at a loss to understand how the Finance Member is going to substantiate this statement. The conditions which necessiated the granting of the remission still persist to a large degree. There has been absolutely no increase in the price of paddy in many parts of the State. In some parts the price of paddy this year is worse, compared with last year. The price of agricultural products other than paddy also is still very low. I request the Government to reconsider this matter more carefully and pass an order granting remission this year also.

Again the Finance Member says "there is a general opinion given expression to that the remission has not proved beneficial to the ryots really called as such". I do not know what he means by saying that is has not proved beneficial to the ryots as such. If he means that the remission does not enure to the benefit of those who are actual cultivators, I can say without any fear of contradiction, that he is wrong. Though the jenmis usually pay the revenue to the Government the liability of the verumpattomdar or the actual cultivator to pay the revenue of the property which are under his actual possession is still there. So it is the verumpattomdar who is actually benefitted by this remission because it is he who is ultimately liable to pay the revenue to his immediate landlord. I can say to the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas that this remission works thus as a reduction in the verumpattom also.

In conclusion, Sir, I like to make some observations about the constitution of the Staff Selection Board and the framing of rules to regulate recruitment on a communal basis. Personally speaking, Sir, this division of the people into water-tight compartments on a communal basis and giving appointment in the public services and representation to the elected bodies, has in my opinion, done great harm to the healthy progress of our State. But this has become the order of the day not only in our State but in the whole of India as well. So framing of some such rules for regulating recruitments has become an absolute necessity.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Sir, unfortunately I belong to a community which may be considered one of the most backward in the matter of representation in Public Services. At present there will not be found even half a dozen people from my community who hold offices under the Government. I request the Government to consider their case sympathetically and give adequate representation to the members of the Nambudiri community in the Public Services of the State.

* മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.—മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട് , സർ, ഏ,നിക്കും രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയണം. പക്ഷെ അതു് മംഗളപത്ര ശ്രുപത്തിലായിരിക്കണമെന്നു നിയമസഭാ റഗുലേഷനിലും ചട്ടങ്ങളിലും രൂളുകളിലും കാണുന്നില്ല. എന്നിരുന്നാലും നമ്മുടെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ഒരു തികഞ്ഞ കംസ സമുദായമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. പിന്നെ എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഗുണങ്ങളെ വാഴ്ത്തുവാനല്ല അന്നദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പറന്മാർ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയാണു്. ഗവമ്മെൻറു പല നിമിഷങ്ങളിലും പല നല്ല കാര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടാകും. അതിനു തക്കതായ ശമ്പളവും അവർക്കു പൊതുജന ഭണ്ഡാകാരത്തിൽനിന്നു ലഭിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ കൂടുതൽ അന്നദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നു ഒരു സഹായമൊ ഒരു പ്രശംസയൊ കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു ഒരു ആശാഭംഗം അവർക്കു വരുവാൻ കാരണമില്ലെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു മുഖവുരയായിപറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് അന്നദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു ഒരുഅന്തരീക്ഷം ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയാണു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു് എന്നാണു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുദ്രാവാക്യംതന്നെ, ഞങ്ങളുടെ പ്രവേശനത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശംതന്നെ, ഗവമ്മെൻറിനു ഒരു ലൌകീകമായ എതിർപ്പു് എപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.— Not always.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.— എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ അന്നദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പ്രധാന ചുമതല അതാണെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ധരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ അതാതു അവസരങ്ങളിൽ കഠിനമായ ഭാഷയിൽ വിമർശിക്കേണ്ടതും അവരിൽ വിശ്വാസമില്ലാത്ത നടപടികൾ തെളിവായി പറയുകയുംചെയ്യു ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ അപ്രകാരം ഗവമ്മെൻറിനു് ഒരു എതിരായ അന്തരീക്ഷം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയാണു് അന്നദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കൃത്യം. ഈ പാർലിമെൻററി ഭരണസമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും മൌലികമായ തത്വംതന്നെ രാജ്യത്തെ പ്രജാവലികൾ എപ്പോഴും ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഒരു എതിരിടൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ചിരപരിചയമായും യാഥാസ്ഥിതികമായുമുള്ള ചില പിടിയിലും ഗതാഗതികത്വത്തിലും ഗവമ്മെൻറു ചെന്നു വീണു കൃത്യാന്മുഖമാകാതെ പുതിയ പുതിയ ആദർശങ്ങളും ആശയങ്ങളും അനുസരിച്ചു അവരെ പ്രവൃത്തിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു എതിരിനെയാണു് ഞാൻ എതിരിടൽ എന്നു പറയുന്നതു്.

അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരുടെ മുമ്പിലല ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ എതിൎക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണു് എന്നു്. എതിൎക്കുക, എതിൎക്കുക വീണ്ടും എതിൎക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണു് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരുടെ മുദ്രാവാക്യം. ഇങ്ങിനെ എതിൎക്കുന്നതിനു അവൎക്കു ചില വിഷമങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകാം. എതിൎക്കുന്നതിനെ അവർ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. അവരെ എതിൎക്കുന്നവരെ അവർ തീർച്ചയായും ശിക്ഷിക്കും. കഴിഞ്ഞു പോയ സംഗതികളെ ശവക്കുഴിയിൽനിന്നു് തോണ്ടി എടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവമ്മെൻറിൽ എനിക്കു വിശ്വാസമില്ലെന്നു കാണിക്കുവാനാണു് ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു നിങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടികളെ കഴിഞ്ഞുപോയ ഒരു സംഭവത്തിലേക്കു പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു, ആ സംഗതിയിൽ ഒരു പ്രതികാരം ചെയ്യാമെന്നോ പകവീട്ടികളയാമെന്നോ ഉള്ള ഒരു പ്രതീക്ഷയോടുകൂടിയാണെന്നു് ആരും ധരിക്കരുതു്. ഇതു് നിങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം അറിവുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. അതു ഇപ്പോൾ പകൽ എന്നപോലെ എല്ലാവൎക്കും അറിയാവുന്ന ഒരു വാസ്തവമാണു്. എറണാകുളത്തു വച്ചു നടന്ന സത്യാഗ്രഹസംഗതി, ഈ കാൎയ്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറു എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരൊറ മനസ്ഥിതിയാണു് പൊതുവെയുള്ള ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ മനസ്ഥിതി. ന്യായമായ പ്രവൃത്തികളെ, സമാധാനപരമായ സന്ദേശങ്ങളെ വഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് മഹാത്മഗാന്ധിയുടെ സത്യാഗ്രഹത്തെ മുൻനിൎത്തിവന്ന സന്നദ്ധഭടന്മാരോടു പുറത്തുപോകണമെന്നു നീതിവിട്ടുള്ള വാക്കുപോലും പറയാതെ അവരെ അക്രമപരമായും മൃഗീയമായ വിധത്തിലും ഇവിടത്തെ പൊലീസുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ ചോദ്യംചെയ്തപ്പോൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറു ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല, ഗവമ്മെൻറു സത്യാഗ്രഹക്കാരോടു അക്രമപരമായി പെരുമാറിയിട്ടില്ല, എന്നുള്ള അത്ഭുതകരമായ നിലയിൽ അതു സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൂടിയുമായ മറുപടിപറയുകയുംചെയ്തു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ വിശ്വസിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

Deputy President.—The Hon'ble Member may confine his discussion to the budget. I do not find anything in the speech so far concerning the Budget.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The Budget is a very comprehensive thing.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ബഡ്ജറിലെ ആയിരവും രണ്ടായിരവും ഇങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കട്ടെ, അതിലെ ഫിഗേഴ്സു ചുരിഞ്ഞു കാണട്ടെ, മലമ്പ കിടക്കട്ടെ എന്നു പറയുന്നതിനല്ല അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ശ്രമണം എന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കട്ടെ.

Deputy President—Order, Order. I have again to point out that the Hon'ble Member's speech does not touch anything in the Budget and I cannot allow the Hon'ble Member to go on at this rate. If he is going to discuss the budget generally or in a particular manner I can allow the Hon'ble Member to go on. Otherwise I will ask the Hon'ble Member to stop his speech.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.—ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് രാജ്യഭരണ വിഷയത്തിൽ എപ്പോഴും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട സംഗതികളെ പ്പറ്റിയാണു്. . . . . .

Deputy President.— Order, Order. I cannot allow the Hon'ble Member to go on at this rate.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I think the Hon'ble President does not quite understand the Malayalam way of arguing. I was appealing to the heroism and the self-sacrificing sense of my Hon'ble Colleagues.

Deputy President.—If that is the way in which the Hon'ble Member is going to discuss the budget I think it is not in order.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, rising to speak on this occasion, I feel it in my duty to condemn in unequivocal terms the policy followed by Government with reference to the water-works which, vitally concerns the interests of the constituency I am representing. Hon'ble Members may be aware that when the water-works was installed at Chowwara and the pipe-line laid to Ernakulam, our Abdicated Maharaja of revered memory has in unmistakable terms passed an order in the shape of Government proceedings to the effect that the water-works is a royal gift to the towns of Mattanchery and Ernakulam in the sense that the original investment and the entire capital involved in the water-works need not be repaid by the Municipal tows of Ernakulam and Mattancherry and that the future receipts from the water-works should be found to be more than sufficient for meeting the depreciation charges as well as other incidental expenses necessary for the maintenance of the water-works. But, if we turn to the subsequent history of the water-works, it will be found that Government have converted it into an unblemished commercial

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

proposition. It will be found on a perusal of the budget that has been placed before us that the anticipated receipts under water-works come to 90,000 rupees while the maintenance charges are shown to reach Rs. 27,000 and the establishment charges to about Rs. 8,000. So, the total expenditure comes to Rs. 35,000 and the anticipated receipt is Rs. 90,000. I beg to remind the Government that this is not the policy to be followed with regard to drinking water — water which has been ordered to be given by our Abdicated Maharaja under certain conditions. The project is a sacred trust created for the benefit of the citizens of Ernakulam and Mattancherry by Royal Prerogative and whoever violates any of the conditions of that trust can in ordinary parlance, be said to be committing a breach of trust. In this case it will be found clearly that when Government is deriving a gain they are really going out of the way. It will be found from those proceedings that as a matter of fact Government is not justified at all in following the policy that they are now so closely pursuing. As a matter of explanation I will only bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members of this House that the system as it works at present devolves upon the Government the non-liability to pay anything for the water they consume for Government institutions. Government is not adjusting to the credit of the Ernakulam Municipality or the Mattancherry Municipality any pie that is derived by the sale of water to the ships that anchor at the port and my information is that it will come to 15 to 20 thousand rupees per annum.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Why don't you tax them?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.—Because under the Proceedings of the Government who ordain these things it is specifically stated that the Municipality will have to pay at the rate of four annas for every thousand gallons of water they consume, and that the Municipality is not concerned at all with the rest of the water even though as a matter of fact the Water Works is a matter which vitally concerns the Mattancherry and Ernakulam Municipalities as per the original Proceedings. The Municipal Councils have no jurisdiction or power to put the supply to the ships on terms. Therefore, whatever be the exact financial figures that will support my argument, one thing is clear, that Government is realising more than cent per cent of their maintenance and depreciation charges. Even calculating depreciation and renewal charges, such as purchase of machinery etc., the amount will not come rateably to four annas per thousand gallons. If you peruse the administration report of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

previous year you will find that more than 231 millon gallons of water has been pumped at a maintenance charge of 15 thousand rupees. At that rate it will come to about 18 pies per 1000 gallons. But if you take the subsequent establishment charges also the amount cannot go higher than two annas. Therefore, I have again as a member representing this Municipality to bring to the notice of the Government that this question of injustice should be enquired into very minutely and Government should never treat this as a "commercial proposition". It is only the subsequent investment apart from the first investment that can be considered to be an investment upon which depreciation has to be taken into account. If the original idea of the trust is to be fructified, Government will have to reduce the rate of water supply considerably, shoulder equally with the Municipalities the cost of depreciation and maintenance in proportion to the consumption of water by Government institutions and convert the surplus into a special fund earmarking it for capital expenditure towards the supply to Ernakulam and Mattanchery. In any case the rate of supply to the Municipality has to be revised taking stock of previous accounts also.

Secondly, I wish to deal with the question of improving the Municipal Towns of the State. It is really very gratifying to note that after my last Budget Speech in this Council along with the support of the Hon'ble Member for Ernakulam North the Government have fully recognised that it is one of their imperative duties to attend also to the improvement of towns and it is also patent from the several proceedings passed by the Government as well as from the opening speech made by the Diwan President that Government fully realises its responsibility with regard to the improvement of these Municipal Towns.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the President assumed the Chair.)

But one fact which I wish to stress before the Government is this. The Chief Engineer is a heavily worked Officer. Any improvement of a town should have a comprehensive scheme. It has to be investigated into by experts and not left to the ordinary routine work of the Public Works Department and if it takes a long time to prepare such a scheme, several changes are bound to come up and the cost of acquisition may become very heavy. Therefore, I urge upon the Government in considering the question of town improvement to have a comprehensive scheme for all the towns where improvements are necessary

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with the advice and guidance of experts immediately summoned for that purpose so that greater losses may be avoided in future.

The third subject on which I wish to touch is the deepening of the Mullasseri Canal in my constituency. I would bring to the notice of the Government that it has given rise to a good deal of uproar among my constituents. The work was delayed considerably in the course of the year and was put off towards the fag end of the year with the result that the canal was deepened during high tides and salt water entered the Karithala Padams. There are instances where on three occasions sowing was done and if any of Hon'ble Members will have the sympathy to visit that spot it will be found that not even one grain of paddy can be had from some tracts. Further no sluice was provided even when the deepening began so that the ingress of salt-water could have been prevented and it goes without saying that as long as the Mullasseri canal is not deepened sufficiently to make it navigable this cry of the ryots of the *Karithalapadam* will still continue. Allied to this subject there also comes the question of reconstructing the first bridge on the Hill Palace Road. The water in the Karithalapadam has to find its way through that one chal which goes to meet the Thevara thodu. The Mullasseri canal is only intended to drain away the surface water and it is not really an irrigation work which will solve the trouble of inundation of the Karithalapadam. You will find on an inspection of the first bridge that in order to give additional protection to that bridge several wooden supports have been given and there are cross bars also with the result that passage for the water-flow is reduced. It is complained that water collects on the northern side of it and leads to disasterous results in the Karithalapadam. This is also a matter which should attract the early attention of the Government.

The fourth point upon which I wish to dwell is with regard to the Harbour. It appears a doubt is entertained with regard to the wisdom of the Harbour Settlement. I do not for a moment think that there is any tenable ground for such an apprehension. If the interests of the Travancore Durbar and the Cochin Government are compared they stand on the same footing. Then how is it that our State had to spend so many lakhs of rupees far transcending the sum invested by Travancore? If that question is considered dispassionately you will find that this disproportion is due to certain tactical blunders of some of our previous Diwans. For reclaiming the piece of land which is now known as the Willingdon Island what a heavy cost have we paid and have we to pay? The sand dredged for deepening

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the backwater has made the Willingdon Island. This dumping so close to the mouth of the Harbour has been a positive advantage to the Harbour as otherwise the sand would have had to be pumped out far away into the sea at high cost. Instead of our getting a remuneration for the concession granted to the Harbour Authorities to dump the soil near at hand, Cochin agreed to pay the cost of such inevitable reclamation. Travancore is no partner in this enterprise. Therefore the whole cost of this Willingdon island has swelled the capital expenditure of this State. That was not the fault of the present Government.

Whether there is the Harbour or not, a Broad Gauge Railway is certainly worth having. Even if, as a matter of fact, our railway works were taken subsequent to the 4th stage our position would not have been different. So it is not right to tack on the Railway expenditure to the Harbour. We have to consider what would have been the plight of Cochin but for a solution of the Harbour question? His Highness, our beloved Maharaja, was not prepared to cede jurisdiction over an inch of Cochin territory. It appears that fault is found against the Government for having taken Travancore as a partner. There may certainly be two opinions upon that point. Would not Hon'ble Members consider for a moment how much of the goods that are landed at the Cochin Port is consumed by Cochinites and the percentage of consumption by Travancore. But for the fact that Travancore is a partner in this Harbour the Travancore Government would certainly have been courageous enough to spend crores of rupees to improve her Harbours. The value of lands in Ernakulam and suburbs will go high with the completion of the 4th stage works and the problem of unemployment solved to a little extent. We would have had to forego all these advantages if we had coolly told the Government of India that we do not want this Harbour resulting in an entire loss of the investment made till now. Under these circumstances every Cochinite must feel that this settlement of the vexed question of the Harbour from a tangled mass of confusion has been carried out with statesmanship. Be it remembered that the settlement had to be reached by eliminating the Government of Madras, the oldest and most pctent of all Presidencies in British India and by negotiating with the Imperial Government who can dictate terms to us. Considering all aspects of the question it cannot but be proclaimed that the settlement has been to the good of the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The next subject upon which I wish to speak is only with regard to the railway where the income is not found to be so very attractive at present. It will be found from the Budget that absolutely no amount is provided for a sinking fund to meet contingencies in the railway. At present the entire rolling stock belongs to the South Indian Railway Company and the Government have to pay heavy rent for the use of the vehicles. If a sinking fund is also resolved upon we can purchase carriages of a superior sort. Now the Railway is absolutely under the control of the South Indian Railway Company. We have no effective voice in the decision of the Company except the formal representation given to the Diwan of Cochin on the Railway Board. That is not sufficient for a scrutiny of the Railway Administration. Therefore, some attention has to be devoted to the question as to how our railway income can be increased by curtailing expenditure. Foundation must even now be laid for management of the Cochin Shoranur Railway by the State itself manned by our own staff trained for the purpose and not depend on a costly Managing Agency.

One further fact is the Out Agency at Cochin. That brings a profit of two to three lakhs to the private company who runs it. The transport of goods to and from Cochin can be easily managed with one tug and half-a-dozen well-kept Valloms. When the bridge connecting Cochin and Ernakulam is completed some of the tugs now carrying water to Cochin will be released and Government can very well have that Out Agency under their direct control. In that case the gain and commission will not go out of Government Coffers.

I cannot but congratulate Government on the liberal policy that has been set out in the nature of readiness to give loans and grants to Municipal Councils. That policy is one for which those who have had any contact with Municipal administration have been yearning for years past. The present policy is one which has to be applauded so far as Municipal Councils are concerned. Let me hope that this will not be short-lived.

The repeal of that ill-advised Regulation 1/1110 proves that Government is strong enough to tender sound advice to rectify errors in the interests of justice and fairplay. The arecanut industry which was groaning under the heavy tortures of a monopolistic system legalised by the aforesaid Regulation is now relieved from strangulation.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In conclusion, I wish to refer to the constitution of the Staff Selection Board. It is clear beyond a shadow of doubt that opinions even inside this Chamber used to be often coloured with a spirit of communalism on account of the race for preferments in Government service. The institution of a Staff Selection Board with definite rules of rotation, satisfies all demands reasonable and unreasonable. Let us then settle our differences by sacrificing communalism at the alter of Our State. In the interests of the State and the people, let not communalism stand in the way of our unfettered progress hereafter.

Mr. George Parakkal.— Mr. President, Sir, to me the budget which has been placed before us is a working Budget, wherein an attempt has been made to cut the coat according to our clothes. But there are some salient points which are rather novel.

It has been hitherto a practice to find money even for reproductive works from the current resources of the State and as a consequence many urgent works had to be put off for want of funds. The provision in the Budget for the Appangat and the Irinjalakuda canals, as also the Electrification of Nemmara from capital expenditure, is therefore a welcome innovation and I hope that this is but the beginning of a big scheme of development, which while of immense benefit to the people will bring a reasonable interest to the Government for the money invested.

After the sad experience of the Government in the Tanneries and the Potteries the Government has been hitherto fighting shy in entering into Industrial Schemes. Let me hope that the entry of the Government in the field of industries, as in the Cochin Power and the Light Corporation and the Cochin Textiles, makes the beginning, of a further venture of the Government in this field so as to further develop the industries in the State.

I will take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Government the condition of the cocoanut growers of the State. The Cocoanut growers in Cochin, along with those in Travancore and British Malabar have been placed at the mercy of the Ceylon planters by the paternal solicitude of the Government of India towards them. Several representations were made to the Government of India for adequate protection to the Cocoanut Industry. But though the Cocoanut sub-committee appointed by the Government of India unanimously recommended a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

very modest protective duty, the Government of India has refused to implement that recommendation. In spite of a series of memorials to the Government submitted by the Cocoanut Growers' Assocation, Narakal, from January 1934 and by the All-Travancore Planters' Association and by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce, all the consolation that the Indian Cocoanut Grower has is best summarised, when the Commerce member said that he was not aware of any distress caused to the Indian Cocoanut Grower as a result of Ceylon imports.

During the 1st 6 months of 1936 there is an increase of about 50 per cent as compared with the imports for the first six months of 1935 in the import of Ceylon Copra. This is the consolation we have received. I will appeal to the Government of Cochin to make strong representation to the Government of India again and again till adequate protection is granted.

But this is not all There are several ways in which the Government can help the cocoanut growers. Organisation of Co-operative marketing centres, production of improved yarn and turning of such yarn into finished products, investigation into improved retting, appointment of agents to find markets for Cochin cocoanut products etc. I would request the Government to carry on work in these lines while pressing for protection at the hands of the Government of India. I would suggest to the Government the necessity of setting up a small committee to go into the whole question relating to cocoanut industry and suggest to the Government the ways and means. There seems to be a mis-apprehension in some quarters that the Cocoanut Growers' Association, Narakal, which has submitted certain proposals to the Government wanted a cess to be collected for the purpose of the work. The Government of Travancore has succeeded to establish cocoanut committee to carry on work in these directions, the Government meeting the whole cost. Our Government should also do so. That, if Government cannot find the money, it is the view of that Association, that even a cess would be a necessity. This Association has not claimed to represent the cocoanut growers of Cochin though the agitation was solely carried on from this side.

Sir, the question of unemployment has to be faced and faced soon and seriously. Everywhere in the State unemployment is growing and the solution lies, it appears to me, in the Government directly or indirectly helping the opening of factories and large industrial concerns. I will call the attention

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the Government to this matter which is growing in importance day by day.

In this connection I also bring to the notice of the Government, the severe havoc that was wrought by the floods of this year in the villages of Vellarapilly. The flood was unusually high and as is not often the case, the flood came to stay for over five days together and the loss was heavy. I request the Government to give adequate relief by way of remission etc. to these villages as also to embark upon a scheme of action by which they can successfully tackle the question of diverting the collected waters in the low grounds of the interior as early as is possible to the river.

The provision made to the Medical Department falls very much below the actual necessity. On going through the Budget no adequate amount is found provided to furnish and equip Mattanchery and no amount to equip the new dispensary at Narakal. Anyway I hope that Government will find money to meet these necessities.

A lump sum is found provided in the Police Budget. In this connection let me bring to the notice of the Government the necessity of increasing the Police Force. In many Police Stations and all Outposts it is highly necessary to strengthen the number of the Policemen. More numbers have to be recruited to the Police.

I have heard with pleasant surprise that we are having Hitlerism in Cochin. After all Hitler and Mussolini have sacrificed themselves for their country and the Germans and Italians are venerating their names. The outstanding feature of the present administration is that it has been always responsive to the legitimate demands of the people expressed through this Council and otherwise. The cancellation of Regulation I of 1110 which emancipated the whole of the arecanut growing population, the readiness with which the communique regarding the *Para Religious* procession was promulgated and above all the institution of the Staff Selection Board are instances to the point. It has been always the strength of this administration that it has never been vacillting when a bold front on questions of policy was necessary. As such it is no wonder that a strong administration like the one we have has been the cause of discontentment to a few. When the Government noticed absolute and continued lethargy except in correspondence and repeated unreasonableness in arriving at a confpromise, the Government was forced to give the license in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

matter of electricity to a "Foreigner" according to the Oorakam Member but which strictly is not. Of course, it is no wonder that this has evoked cantankerous criticism in some quarters. The view that some members hold regarding Cochin for Cochinites is a matter for real surprise in this era especially so when the creed of the Indian National Congress is to evolve a United India. It is bad politics and is quite derrogatory to the dignity of this House that in discussions on the budget, far from criticising questions of policy, personal attacks of a virulent nature are indulged in. When I was listening to the speech of the Member for Trichur North I may be excused for being reminded of the 4 per cent in the rules of the Staff Selection Board and the pointed reference to the Sitaram Mills and indigenous industry in the speech of the Member for Oorakam.

Before I conclude may I congratulate you, Sir, for successfully terminating a very knotty problem that was agitating the public mind of Cochin for the last many years—I mean the question of communal representation. The gratitude that members of the unrepresented classes of Cochin have in this matter towards you is everlasting and undying. This knotty problem out of the field I am sure that all communities will join together in working for the good of the State and the glory of our Maharaja.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, it has become almost superfluous for members on this side of the House and especially for the member who opens discussion to pay compliments to the high excellence of speeches delivered by the non-official members on the other side. It is no longer necessary. We have come to expect such excellence as a matter of course.

I have to apologise to the House for beginning my speech to day with a personal explanation. It has been said here, Sir, —I am speaking today mainly about the land revenue remission —that the withdrawal of the concession of land revenue remission was to find funds for expenditure in certain directions of doubtful utility. If the statement had stopped there, I would have been the last to criticise such an observation, but when a pointed accusation is further made that the withdrawal was made expressly for two schemes of Government, one the slump clearance and the erection of a guest house, etc., and second the purchase of a habitation consistent with the dignity and status of the State, in Delhi, then it is up to me to say that this year's withdrawal was mainly the result of my recommendations.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Long before the Budget was finally framed and this expenditure decided upon, I was asked to offer my opinion on the question whether the remission should continue for next year or not. I had the misfortune to hold that conditions have definitely changed or at any rate that there was a fair case for withdrawal. Let me therefore make it very plain that to make that accusation is as unfair as it is unfounded, for the withdrawal was made on my initiative. That I suppose disposes of the misunderstanding in the minds of some of the Hon'ble Members about the withdrawal being made for the express purpose of finding funds for two items. I recognise, Sir, that concessions are generally so welcome and attractive that the task of the person, who advocates either its withdrawal or discontinuance is not always an easy one. But it has been my experience always, Sir, that this House is always open to accept fair argument. That experience of mine emboldens me to place before the House all the reasons which weighed with me in making that recommendation and I am sure the Hon'ble Members would investigate the problem on its merits, leaving alone these other arguments about the withdrawal of the remission being either for this purpose expressly or for that purpose.

I will now proceed to state why I have recommended that the remission, as reflecting the economic depression can no longer be made a permanent feature of all our annual budgets. In the first place let me speak one or two words about the principle followed by this State in fixing the land revenue. We determined the gross produce at the time of the settlement and that produce was determined by means of harvest experiments. Necessary deductions were made for all vicissitudes of season, unprofitable areas and cultivation expenses and the tax payable to the Government was fixed at half the net produce after making allowance for every specific expenditure and variations in season. Having fixed it, the next problem was how to commute it to money value. The settlement was for 30 years and Government took into account the possible contingency of rates varying within those 30 years. It was deliberately put as low as possible so that under any conceivable circumstance the rate could not work hardship. 4 annas 7 pies was the commutation rate so fixed. Our land tax has been put at the barest minimum consistent with all possible fluctuations, so that I claim that our land tax is the smallest on record everywhere. It is appreciably lesser than what prevails in British India and a little less than that prevailing in Travancore. Even now our tenants are so to speak enjoying a perpetual remission involved in the tax itself,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

compared to the tenants elsewhere. But Government do not want to stand on that alone. Government have been giving remissions to a large extent in the past 3 years. I can claim that our record in that direction has never been excelled. It came almost without invitation to the help of agriculturists in 1109, by giving a remission of not 12½ per cent but 18¾ per cent by postponing other works of public utility. Government made it very plain then, that this would be only a temporary palliative and that as I started by saying, a reduction in land tax viewed as a solution of the economic depression can never be thought of as a recurring or a prepetual one. But out of deference to the wishes of the Hon'ble Members it was granted in 1110 also. It was granted in 1111 also for the same reason and probably for the reason that prices did not show a definite rise or even an upward trend. But Sir, the great object which the Government had in view, apart from mitigating the effects of low prices, in granting and continuing the remission, was to give time to the agriculturists to adjust their needs to be met out of the agricultural income to the changed conditions. The demands upon the agricultural income easily fall under certain well-defined categories. First there is the Government tax which is a fixed one and which has been deliberately put low at the time of Settlement. There is next, the cost of production. Then there is the interest on debts if the agriculturist is a debtor and finally a margin must be found to meet his wants. When therefore in 1109, 1110 and 1111 Government gave that remission their idea and their object was to enable the agriculturist to so adjust their expenses according to the income which they can reasonably expect from the land that it will enable them to pay the Land Revenue. If three years have failed to achieve this object it is due somewhat to the fault of the agriculturists themselves. Now the time has come, I submit, for the Government to ask for a little self-sacrifice on the part of the agriculturists for the sake of the common exchequer. It cannot be said that the cost of production has increased. If anything, cooly charges are lower. We have also made provision for the reduction of interest on debts to 12 per cent per annum. So the paying capacity of the agriculturist has certainly increased.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon.—Not for existing debts.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—For people who have to pay interest. Then so far as their debts are concerned Sir, 2 lakhs and something more have been expended by the Government by way of relieving the agrarian distress and it has been said here that the Land Mortgage Bank, would be prepared to give 25

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

lakhs of rupees if offers are forthcoming and if sufficient security is furnished in each case. I am just now only on the point that some efforts have been made by Government for a reduction on the interest side of the expenditure of the agriculturists. Therefore I submit the time has come, apart from other considerations such as the question whether the economic depression has actually lifted or not, for the Government to recall legitimately the concessions granted by them.

I am trying to make out a case for the withdrawal of the remission. Our landtax is the lowest on record. We have given remissions in land revenue in 1109, 1110 and 1111, long before any of our neighbouring countries began to give any remission. We have tried to reduce the burden of debt also, besides the reduction of the rate of interest, by giving loans through the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank, on easy terms.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Did any body get the loan?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—We have already given 2 lakhs and odd under the special loan scheme and it is expected that a substantial amount will be granted next year also.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—In case a security does not cover the debts he has incurred what will be his position?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—To those whose security is not worth anything in the market it does not matter whether he pays 2 annas more to the Government. They are past salvation.

I will not stop here even. I had requested the Diwan, for permission to limit the agricultural loans to Rs. 500/-. I voluntarily did so, and the Diwan has been pleased to agree with me. A sum of Rs. 20,000 has been set apart for next year to give small loans to the agriculturists. I may even go to the extent of saying that I shall make a recommendation if occasion arises to make it possible even to regard a loan for payment of tax as an agricultural loan, even though the rules do not literally allow it. What further can be done? We lost something like a lakh and fifty-four thousand rupees in 1109, 1110 and 1111. Our normal remissions under the Land Revenue Manual every year come to approximately 25 thousand rupees. We have now to come to the rescue of those who were affected by the floods. It cannot be denied that we have never been averse in giving remissions of land tax when the seasonal conditions have operated adversely on the agriculturists.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Now let us look at the question of low prices. There is an assertion on the other side of the House that prices still remain the same. But as a matter of fact, prices show an upward trend as I shall try to show presently. Without statistics, it is obviously not possible to come to any conclusion. Anticipating that there would be some controversy with regard to this matter I called for statistics from the various Tahsildars. Their replies are here. You will agree that all of them cannot have gone wrong at the same time. The two staple products of our State are the paddy and the cocoanut. With regard to paddy, prices are the following:—

		Mukundapuram.	*Cranganur.*	*Trichur.*
Meenom	1111	0—6—6	0—6—6	0—6—9
Medam	1111	0—6—0	0—6—6	0—6—6
Edavom	1111	0—7—0	0—6—6—7.	0—7—0
Mithunam	1111	0—7—0	0—7—3	0—7—3

Chittur.	*Talappilly.*	*Cochin-Kanayannur.*
0—8—0	0— 9—0	0—6—6
0—9—0	0—10—0	0—6—9
0—9—0	0— 9—6	0—7—6
0—8—6	0— 8—0	0—7—6

Mr. C. R. Iyyunny.—Have you corresponding figures for last year?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—My statistics are of this year. When the depression started and when the remission began I am sure it was in the neighbourhood of 6 annas and slightly below that in some places. With regard to cocoanuts the position is absolutely clear. Everybody forgets the cocoanuts and concentrates on paddy where the trend is not so pronounced. With regard to cocoanuts, per hundred, prices are following:—

	Talappilly.	*Mukundapuram.*	*Cranganur.*
Meenom	5—10—0	3—9—0	3— 8—0
Medam	5— 8—0	3—8—0	3— 8—0
Edavom	5— 8—0	3—9—0	2—12—0-3
Mithunam	4— 8—0	3—2—0	1—15—0

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Trichur.	*C.-K. Taluk.*	*Chittur.*
3— 6—6	3—4—10	4—8—0 — 5—4—0
3—10—9	3—6— 5	4—8—0 — 5—0—0
3— 6—0	3—4—10	4—8—0 — 5—0—0
3— 7—0	3—4—10	5—8—0 — 5—0—0

For four months now, high prices persist and prices are now the same and so far as I know the indications are that these prices of cocoanuts will persist. No honest critic can say that prices persisting for the last 9 months, will suddenly go down next year.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—5—8—0 for cocoanuts. Is it in this century?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Not only in this century, but in this month. Not in Cranganur, where it is only about Rs. 3.

Now this is one indication that the worst phase of the economic depression has passed away. Another indication to guage the present position of the ryots is to see, how many revenue sales have been made this year by coercive processes. I am absolutely on firm ground there. The sales are distinctly lower.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—What are the arrears of this year?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I have not finished my supplementary jamabandy. In Chittur there are absolutely no arrears, another indication there is and that is that there have been fewer advertisements for sale. There have not only been no sales but there have been no advertisements by the revenue department for sale, in Chittur Taluq.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Do you want sales next year?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I am not saying that I want sales next year. I am only referring to that as an indication of the more prosperous condition of the ryots. That was one circumstance which weighed with me in thinking that a fair case exists for the withdrawal of the remission.

Proceeding to the next point, there was always a large body of well-informed opinion in this house that these remissions are not reaching the people for whom they are intended to reach and that it reaches only a very minute class of rich landlords.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas is a prominent advocate of this view.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I did not say anything like that. I am against remission.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Anyhow there was a large body of well-informed opinion in this House which was against this remission. Even the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu in the form of a parenthesis in the reported speech, doubted if ever the remission reached the people for whom it was intended. The position is this. The total number of pattadars in our State is 87,767. Of these, 32,801 pay one rupee and less. The great remission that we are going to give them is 2 annas or in other words they must give 14 as. More than 1 Re. and less than Rs. 5—26,817. More than 5 and less than 10—10,694. More than 10 and less than 25—8,837. More than 25 and less than 50—4,067. More than 50 and less than 100—2279. More than 100 and less than 250—1640. More than 250 and less than 500—418. More than 500 and less than 1000—134. More than 1000—80. The figures speak for themselves and I am not going to explain them further.

I have been intently watching to see whether any other Government has given the remission or are giving any indication to do so next year. There is really no indication so far that any other Government intends to do so, except the United Provinces. I shall read a cutting from a newspaper regarding this. The cutting runs thus:— "It is understood that as a result of the recent discussions at Ranchi between His Excellency the Governor and representative Zamindars a scheme of rent remission is being evolved with a view to giving relief to tenants in areas where owing to rent in kind having been commuted into cash during the period of high prices, the incidence of rent on general admission has become unbearable. The scheme which will be on a voluntary basis, provides for remission of rent for lands whose rental was commuted into cash in accordance with the prevailing prices. A record will be prepared of lands whose rental was commuted into cash between the years 1921 and 1930 and the prices then obtaining and of the prices now prevailing. The idea evidently is that if for instance the rent of particular land was commuted into cash on the basis of the then prevailing price of say Rs. 4 per maund for paddy, the rent will be reduced according to the price now prevailing. That is to say, if the price of paddy is now Rs. 2 per maund, the rent will be reduced by 50 per cent and so on. In other words, rent of holdings

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

whose rental was commuted into cash during the period of high prices will be related to the existing prices. It is understood Zamindars have agreed to the main features of the scheme which will be put into effect by collectors of various districts concerned. It appears that rates of rent will vary from year to year according to the difference between prices obtaining at the time the commutations were made and those now obtaining. It is understood that details of the scheme will be announced before long". If we adopt that process here the agriculturists will have to pay something to the Government.

Now all that I wish to place before the House is that if depression has affected the agriculturists, that depression has certainly affected Government finances also. We were working under a great strain for the last 3 years. We now ask from you a little favour in the shape of a self-sacrifice to enable the Government to get its revenue at its full figure for this year. That is all that I have to say with regard to this subject.

Then with regard to the Department of Fisheries, the Hon'ble Member who brought in that subject knows that every time that the subject is brought before the Diwan he has done what he can possibly do in the matter. Every possible help is being extended for expanding the activities of the Department. In the absence of all essential data, it is very difficult to have a thorough reorganisation of the department, for example we do not know whether the output from deep-Sea fishing would be profitable even with trawlers, whether we can rely at all seasons for a remunerative catch of the sort of fish found in our localities—all these and many other things demand investigation. Government have undertaken the organisation of co-operative societies for the fishermen, to encourage common effort. There is no reason for any apprehension that further efforts will not be made.

Then there seems to be some misunderstanding with regard to the exemption of Parvathiakarans from the scope of the Staff Selection Board. It was done for very obvious reasons. By reason of a Government order passed a few years ago the office of the Parvathiakarans was made hereditary and non-pensionable as far as possible in future appointments.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—How many families are there in the State who hold posts of Parvathiakarans as hereditary?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The proceedings came only in 98. As far as possible, I have made appointments of Parvathiakars with due regard to this principle. Obviously, they

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

have to be excluded from the operation of the Staff Selection Board.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—Sir, let me first thank the Hon'ble Members for their kind expressions of congratulation on the budget which I have presented to the House. A charge was levelled against the Government for bringing forward so many supplementary grants during this session numbering about 43. The very fact that the Government came to the Council for its sanction on those grants is proof positive that they want to obtain the sanction of the Council wherever it is possible. There was also real necessity for bringing a change to the existing practice. Till recently Heads of Departments used to incur expenditure based on the revised estimates in excess of the budget estimates. They expend the amount and then come to the Council for its sanction in the ensuing year. This procedure was seriously objected to by the present Government and they ordered that no expenditure should be met before proper sanction is obtained for the grant. All Heads of Departments were circularised and told once for all that unless they obtain previous sanction and satisfy the Government as to the absolute need of the expenditure in excess of the budget grant it would not be sanctioned. I will read the circular. "Heads of Departments are requested to see that applications for additional allotments are made only very sparingly and in exceptional cases". This was the very reason why so many items of supplementary grants have been placed before the Council.

The same arguments hold good in the case of the items passed under Section 16 (9) of the Council Regulation and placed on the table of the House. They are all items which could not be provided for in the Budget of the current year and were very urgent and could not wait till the sanction of the Council was obtained. If any Hon'ble Member wants any explanation on any particular item I shall gladly furnish the same.

Then there was a suggestion for the fixation of grants for the several departments of the State. I think it came from the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakuda. While thanking him for his suggestion, I wish to inform the House that the Government have already taken up the question for serious consideration and have already come to certain conclusions. The only thing was that we could not introduce the change this year. The proposals came up before the Government too late. But there is some difficulty in introducing the system as opined by the Hon'ble Member himself.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

With regard to the Land Revenue remission Hon'ble Members seem to forget that the general settlement which is due after 30 years could have been taken in hand a few years earlier.

The complaint that Government are devoting more of their attention to larger towns in preference to rural areas has arisen from some quarters. The very fact that from this year onwards Government have decided to grant advances to the Municipalities rather than giving grants from the general revenues is itself a proof that the Government are never showing any partiality. The rural areas are now more benefited than towns as a result of Government taking in hand town improvement schemes.

With regard to the floatation of the loan the Hon'ble Diwan President has explained in detail the necessity, utility and advantages of the loan. Therefore the only thing that I should explain is in regard to the non-provision of a sinking fund in next year's budget. In the first place the loan is not fully raised. The total amount is recoverable only in 6 month's time. Government thought that there is no necessity to create a sinking fund this year or the next. Necessary provision will be made from 1113 onwards in order to enable the Government to liquidate the loan in the course of 20 to 25 years.

I have only one word to add about the management of the loan. The Hon'ble Member for Urakam was making mention of the fact that local banks may have been given a hand in the raising of the loan. I would inform him that even the Central Bank of India and all those big 'fives' as it is called in England, were not able to underwrite the loan.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I will make my position clear. I only said that at least the local banks might have been given the receiving of the amount of the loan so as to enable them to get the 1/16 of the commission.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—It must be remembered that the Cochinites applied only for 10 lakhs.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Was the present rate the lowest commission asked for underwriting the whole loan.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—Yes. This was the lowest rate offered.

In regard to the deficit anticipated at the end of 1111; I must say that in the course of the last 10 years this is the only

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

year in which the deficit has occurred and that too due to circumstances beyond the control of the Government. It is not at all proper to say that the deficit occurred owing to the extravagance of the Government. There is no need for fear that there will be a deficit in the succeeding year. Even in the current year I hope the actualities would be considerably less.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Sir, I also wish to join my colleagues in my appreciation of the very high level of the discussion by Hon'ble Members on the other side on the general questions arising out of the budget of this year. I may assure the House on behalf of Government that all their observations made during the course of the debate will receive adequate attention. I am not going to touch upon all the points that have been raised during the debate by the various Hon'ble Members, because I notice that most of them are coming again by way of cut motions under the various demands. I do not propose, therefore, to waste the time of the House by entering into all of them, but reserve what I have to say on those points to the appropriate occasions.

I wish, however, to explain one point, which was specifically referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur viz., the refund of excise duty on Jaffna tobacco to the Travancore Government, as I wish to remove a possible misconception in this House as to its effect upon the finances of the State. Hon'ble Members are aware that the tri-partite division of customs duties under the Agreement of 1925 came into effect on the 1st of April 1931. It was from the 1st of April 1931 that the customs duties realised at the port of Cochin were divided into 3 equal shares between the Government of India, the Government of Travancore and the Government of Cochin. Till 1931 the division was according to the old Interportal Trade Convention by which the proceeds were divided into two equal shares, between the Government of India and the Government of Cochin. After 1st of April 1931 the Cochin Government was receiving as its share 1/3 of the customs revenue. In 1933 this Government took objection to the classification by the Travancore Government of the duty on Jaffna tobacco as Excise duty and brought the point to the notice of the Government of India that it should be classified as import duty and brought into the common pool for division among the three parties. The Government of India ruled that the duty on Jaffna tobacco collected from the 1st of April 1931 in all the backwater ports should be pooled in the division and that the Government of India as well as the Cochin Government should each receive its 1/3 share of these duties. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Travancore Government, of course, did not accept that ruling, but paid the amount under protest and referred the question, under section 12 of the Harbour Agreement of 1925, for the decision of the Government of India. The representations of both Governments having been duly made, the Government of India have now held on the advice of the Legislative Department that according to the strict legal interpretation of clause 8 of the Agreement the Travancore Government were not bound to pool this duty. Under section 12 of the Agreement the decision of the Government of India is final. As a result of that decision both the Government of India and the Government of Cochin have now to refund what they had received for the last 2 years. This amounts to Rs. 5,15,000, and so far as this Government is concerned, it has been agreed to that this refund should be made in 7 annual instalments—this will come to about 73,000 rupees per instalment — and that the refund should be deducted out of the share of the customs duties payable to this Government in each year. That is why we have not shown in our Budget the amount of refund because the receipts under customs will be determined only after the refund. Under the new revised Agreement which will come into force hereafter the duty on Jaffna tobacco is included in the division of customs revenue. This refund, therefore, affects only the past 2 years, 1935 and 1936. On an average it is seen that the duty on Jaffna tobacco comes to 4·8 lakhs. One third of that, 1·6 lakhs, we will get. So, as against a rebate of 73 thousand rupees we get an addition of 1·6 lakhs every year under the new Agreement.

Mr. President.—Hon'ble Members, in winding up this general discussion, I would just make one or two observations. I would at the outset thank the House for the very sympathetic and helpful manner in which they have dealt with the financial statement for the coming year. I welcome not merely the praises contained in some of the speeches but also the criticisms and more especially constructive criticisms in some of the speeches.

I am especially glad that the Hon'ble Member Mr. Sivarama Menon has drawn the attention of the House to the need for a reorientation of the policy of Government regarding the financing of schemes for Town Improvement in the State. Even within the first two or three months of my coming here, I told the people of Mattancherry that the problem of improving towns, especially the towns of Mattancherry and Ernakulam, will have to engage the serious attention of the Government.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

All these years looking through the administration reports and financial statements of the State I have been struck by the fact that attempts have always been made to meet even schemes of improvement from current revenues. That to any one who knows Government Finance is an obvious impossibility. It is with a view to expedite the carrying out of some of these schemes of improvement that the Government have from this year onwards launched on a policy of financing such schemes from capital expenditure and I may assure the House that that policy will be pursued more vigorously in the future. In view of the development of the Harbour and the congestion that is bound to result thereby, the improvement of the towns of Ernakulam and Mattancherry have become a very pressing need to which attention must be devoted not by the Government but by the Municipal Councils. As a result and as a corollery to the policy that has been hitherto followed by the Government I have found that the Municipal Councils always expected Government to meet the entire financing of all these things and I have made it plain in my opening speech that it is not possible for the Government to finance the entire amount for the improvement of the amenities of only two small towns as against the innumerable needs that we have to meet in the State. All these improvements can be undertaken only if the Municipalities also are prepared to shoulder their part of the burden. I fully agree with the Hon'ble Member that it is not possible for our Public Works Department as it is manned and constituted at present to deal comprehensively with all these schemes of Town Improvement. For one thing the Head of the Public Works Department is already overworked and it is not possible to expect him to devote that much attention to schemes of town improvement that we would expect from a department of that nature. Apart from that modern town improvement is a highly specialised and technical job. It is not possible for an ordinary Engineer however eminent he is to tackle problems of Town Improvement. There are special Town Planning experts for these, and I am now seriously thinking of requisitioning the help of some of these Town planning experts to advise on the schemes of improving especially the Towns of Mattancheri and Ernakulam.

I said I am very thankful for the helpful criticism that has come forward from the various quarters of this House. I cannot at the same time refrain from expressing my regret at the intensely personal tone that was adopted by a group of Hon'ble Members. They have indulged in a virulent personal attack

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

against the Diwan which however much I might like I might not allow to pass unchallenged. In fact when I listened to three of those speeches I was reminded of the working of the Ford Motor Car Factory which turns out thousands of cars every day on a standardised mass scheme. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that looking into the internal evidence of those speeches probably even the quality of the foolscap pages on which the speeches are typed they were all produced in one factory with slight modifications to suit the temperament of the speakers. Well, unfortunately the head of an administration is at a handicap when answering such personal attacks. If I were sitting on those benches I could have effectively given replies to those. But my regret is that I am not sitting on those benches. But I have restrained myself and realised my responsibility as the head of the administration. During the fifteen years of my political life I have received hard knocks from my political opponents and I have given hard knocks which are even now remembered. I have also learned something in the school of rhetoric, of sarcasm, irony and vituperation and I can give easily samples which might rouse the jealousy and envy of those Hon'ble Members. However much I would like to ignore this personal criticism, I could not simply do that because of some of the mis-statements either deliberate or unintentional contained in those speeches. A statement was attributed to me that I have classified the people of Cochin into two categories as toadies and contankerous critics. Well, I can only say that, unless it is due to some misunderstanding of what I said, it is a malicious mis-interpretation. This sentence is taken from a speech that I delivered the other day at Trichur. I was referring to a sentence contained in the report of the Merchants' Association and that sentence was to this effect. 'We realise as a mercantile community that we cannot simply be opposing Government but that we could co-operate with the Government while criticising them.' In commenting upon that sentence I said I welcomed that speech because, mark my words, I have come across a few people in this State in whose opinion there can be only two ways of approaching Government either by Toadies or by Cantankerous Critics. These gentlemen, I said forget that there is a third alternative, i. e. by helpful criticism and co-operation. (Hear, hear). Now when that was my statement to come forward here and say glibly that I classified the people of Cochin into two categories is to say the least unwise. I have to make my position clear to this House and to the people of Cochin. I have got too much respect for the people of Cochin whom I have begun to like. Hence I have to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

deny any such irresponsible statement. One of these Hon'ble Members referred to the present Diwan as a Mussolini and a Hitler. While I was listening to these I was reminded of a retort that Mr. Baldwin gave in the House of Commons. The late Mr. Shapurjee Saklathvala was one of the communist members of the House of Commons and one day in his speech in the House of Commons Mr. Saklathvala indulged in a terrible tirade against the British Government and accused them of autocratic Imperialism which crushed all the liberties of citizenship. And when Baldwin got up to reply he said the greatest testimony for the liberty that the British Government allowed to its subjects is the fact that this Hon'ble Member was allowed to make that speech. Well the fact that the Hon'ble Member for Oorakam is still safe in his place after making his speech is the greatest testimony to the fact that we have no Mussolini or Hitler in the Diwan. Two of those Hon'ble Members made a complaint of police surveillence and that their footsteps are dogged by the police and they are being harrassed. I am afraid that these gentlemen are flattering themselves too much and attaching too much importance to themselves. Let me make it perfectly plain that we have not given any instructions to the police to watch any of these gentlemen. We know they are harmless. A vast majority of the citizens of Cochin are luckily for us loyal and peace-loving citizens. And we know the limitations of even those gentlemen who occasionally indulge in political tactics so that the Government have certainly not so far thought it worth while to ask the police to have any surveillence over these men, or to dog their footsteps. Well if any of these gentlemen thought that a police man is following them I would suggest to them a course of action which was adopted by me sometime back when I was a non-official. There was a time when the C. I. D. followed me and when I got down to one of the stations for my dinner I found this C. I. D. dogging my footsteps. I just called him and said, 'Well, my friend, you are paid to look after me. Please look after my luggage while I go to my dinner'. I would advise these Hon'ble gentlemen to ask the police men dogging their steps to look after their personal belongings if they happen to possess any at that time.

Apart from these personal criticisms there has been an accusation levelled against me of dealing very unsympathetically with the local indegenous enterprises and the example of the refusal of the Government to accede to the request of the Sitaram Mills was given as an instance in point. I am very sorry that these Hon'ble gentlemen have brought this topic at

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

all. Probably they have a grudge against the Sitaram Mills, because in the interests of the Sitaram Mills I would have refrained myself from giving the reasons which induced the Government to turn down that request. But when the Government is deliberately accused of partiality I have no other option but to give out the reasons. The Sitaram Mills made the request that we should postpone for about 18 months the monthly repayment of the loans that they have taken from the Government. And they wanted this facility with a view to enable them to purchase a new Turbine for the Mill. Now when such a request is made, as the custodian of the tax-payers' money I have naturally to look into the financial stability of the Sitaram Mills. I therefore asked for the latest balance sheet and the latest balance-sheet then available was sent to me. And when I scrutinised the balance sheet, what did I find? They had shown an apparent profit of Rs. 25,773; but as one accustomed to make balance sheets myself, I examined the balance sheet more carefully and I found to my surprise that no provision has been made for depreciation of the machinery, plant and buildings. Now it is a commonplace simple truth which even a layman could understand that the profit of an industrial concern is arrived at only after making due and adequate provision for these items. On making a rough calculation of the amount required for purposes of depreciation I found that the company would have to provide 85,000 rupees for depreciation. It is therefore only after providing Rs. 85,000 that they can arrive at a profit. Calculated on this basis it will be found that the Company has during that year made an actual loss of Rs. 60,000. I was told now that the managing agents were intending to forego Rs. 30,000 out of their commission. But the fact still remains nevertheless that in spite of this magnanimity on the part of the managing agents the company had not sufficient money even to pay depreciation. That was a very alarming state of affairs. I was prepared even to overlook that and to examine the financial stability of the Sitaram Mills to find out whether the Mills has got enough asset which warrant this concession. What did I find? I found that the Mill is supposed to have about 14,000 spindles and 370 looms and the total expenditure that this company has incurred on this machinery and buildings so far is 19 lakhs of rupees. Knowing something of the cost of spinning and weaving machinery myself, I made a calculation as to what it would cost to erect a mill approximately of similar size to-day with new and up-to-date machinery. I arrived at the figure of 12 lakhs of rupees, that is for 12 lakhs of rupees you can have today 14,000

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

spindles and 370 looms and all of them brand new on the most modern lines. And the the Sitaram Mills had spent 19 lakhs of rupees on this and today even after providing for depreciation they have brought to account their machinery and building to a value of 13 lakhs of rupees. Now in the face of this I would have certainly betrayed the interest entrusted to me, if I had acceded to their request. And in this connection I can bring one more fact to the Hon'ble Members' notice. I have just taken a cutting from the Madras Mail taken at random dated Friday July 10, 1936. In the financial page the paper gives a list of 20 South Indian Cotton Mills and of these 20 South Indian Cotton Mills the only one mill that has not declared a dividend during the last year is the Sitaram Mills. Surely you cannot expect the Government to throw the tax-payers' money at a concern which is so over-capitalised and so inefficiently managed. That was why the request was turned down by Government.

Government was again accused of the way in which they were managing the Vaniampara Rubber Company. As soon as I came and looked into the Vaniampara Rubber Estate I said to the Diwan Peishkar and the Comptroller of Accounts that it is time we take into confidence the Directors even though we have taken possession of the Company. So while I was camping at Trichur I convened a meeting of all the Directors and I told them that though the Government is managing the Estate I would be prepared to ask the opinion of the Directors on every one of the vital points affecting the management and expenses will be incurred only after getting the formal sanction of the Directors. That was the arrangement made. And soon after that arrangement we had to pass the working expenses for the coming year. So on 23-11-1935 we sent to the Directors our estimate of the working expenses and asked their opinion on it. No response from the directors was made. A reminder was sent to them on 18-12-35 complaining about their indifference. No response still. We had to manage the Estate. Therefore on the 10th of February 1936, three months thereafter, we had to pass our orders. Now that is the sad experience that I have had of attempting to get the co-operation of the Directors in the Management of the Vaniampara Rubber Estate. But I am glad to say that in spite of the absence of the Directors, the conditions of the Rubber Market have been very favourable to us. Last year we have already made a profit and we are hoping to make a much bigger profit during the forthcoming as well as the current year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The same Hon'ble gentlemen criticised the industrial policy of the Government and took even my predecessors to task for the slowness with which they moved. Well it is perfectly true that the industrial progress of this State has made no advance. I have very carefully gone into the causes of it and one of the causes is that both the public and the Government have during all these years depended simply upon one or two men who are passed as industrial experts. It is time that we should get fresh blood. It is time that we should hand over the management of our industries to men who know business. The fact that some of the concerns started by these gentlemen proved a total failure while similar concerns in the neighbouring districts have proved a success has really contributed to kill the confidence the public has in such industrialists. That is the real reason why industrial development has not progressed in the State. Whether these inefficient men have put their hands and bungled over or others with better intentions have put their hands not knowing anything, or men who have nothing to do with business have tried to exploit business for political ends, businesses of such nature have also failed. It is because of these sad experiences that we have now decided to encourage the development of industries in this State by whomsoever it be started whether it is by a bonafide Cochinite or by any Indian business man. As a result of the sad experience of the Rubber Estate, Tanneries, Potteries and the numerous other things Government naturally had to be more careful. It is not wise to waste the taxpayers' money in investments which ultimately prove to be dangerous and it will be my policy to proceed cautiously in the matter of Industrial development in the State.

These Gentlemen have even cast doubts on the utility of the Harbour, even on the construction of the harbour. Well, if they begin to feel doubts about the utility of the harbour they are unfortunately late by 11 years after the due date. Whatever was the harbour settlement the settlement was really arrived at in 1925 and these gentlemen with their anxiety and knowledge of business could really have sounded a note of warning in those days. But nothing was done. Here the matter was hanging on and when I arrived at a final settlement they began to paint a gloomy picture. After all in arriving at the settlement what is it that I have done? The essential fundamental factors of the settlement were arrived at in 1925 long before I came. The whole question was held up after we have spent a crore of rupees. What I had to decide was whether on the question

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of jurisdiction I was to allow this one crore of rupees to go to waste. I was of opinion, that having spent so much we shall undertake a further capital expenditure of 31 lakhs of rupees; that is all what I have done. My part was not anything very great even though the solution that has been suggested was ultimately found acceptable to all the parties. And in spite of the genius of these gentlemen the better opinion of this State would still look forward to the harbour as a fruitful source of revenue in the State and of promoting the Commercial prosperity of the State. Well, I am not easily perturbed by such gloomy pictures. In the stillness of the night when the owl flitters and makes a croaking sound, I take consolation in the fact that there are also nightingales and I do turn my ears to them and close them against the croaking owls.

The House rose for the day at 4-45 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly